

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, so as to
2 provide requirements for safety plans in early care and education programs; to provide a
3 short title; to revise the requirements for school safety plans at public elementary and
4 secondary schools; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for other
5 purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

SECTION 1.

7 This Act shall be known and may be cited as the "Child Safety and Emergency Preparedness
8 Act."
9

SECTION 2.

10 Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to education, is amended in
11 Article 1 of Chapter 1A, relating to general provisions pertaining to early care and learning,
12 by adding a new Code section to read as follows:
13

14 "20-1A-19.

15 (a) By January 1, 2016, early care and education programs shall prepare a safety plan to
16 provide a safe care and learning environment for Georgia's children by addressing
17 preparedness for emergencies, including but not limited to preparedness for fire, floods,
18 tornadoes, snow and ice storms, earthquakes, chemical spills, and acts of violence. Such
19 plan shall be prepared in consultation with parents and legal guardians of children enrolled
20 in such early care and education programs and teachers and staff of such early care and
21 education programs. Such plan may be prepared in consultation with community leaders
22 and local law enforcement, fire service, public safety, and emergency management
23 agencies. Such plan shall be submitted to the local emergency management agency. The
24 requirements for such plan as provided for by this Code section shall be evaluated as a part
25 of any licensing or regulatory reviews conducted by the department.

26 (b) The safety plan provided for by subsection (a) of this Code section shall include:

- 27 (1) Procedures for personnel to notify parents and legal guardians in cases of emergency;
 28 (2) The development of designated relocation sites and evacuation routes to such sites;
 29 (3) Reunification plans for children with parents and legal guardians in cases where such
 30 children require sheltering in place or relocation in cases of emergency; and
 31 (4) Written individualized plans for accommodating special needs of children in early
 32 care and education programs in cases of emergency.

33 (c) The safety plan provided for by subsection (a) of this Code section shall be reviewed
 34 and, if necessary, updated monthly by early care and education programs. Early care and
 35 education programs shall maintain documentation that the safety plan is reviewed monthly.

36 (d) Early care and education programs shall train teachers, staff, and other personnel on
 37 the prepared safety plan as provided for by this Code section at least once each calendar
 38 year.

39 (e) Early care and education programs shall implement the emergency procedures
 40 provided for in the prepared safety plan as provided for by this Code section through
 41 practice drills. Early care and education programs shall maintain documentation of such
 42 drills for one year after the completion of each such drill. Such drills shall be as provided
 43 for by local and state law and shall also include:

- 44 (1) The conducting of at least one fire drill each calendar month, which shall be
 45 alternated to cover each shift and time of day that children are present at the location of
 46 the early care and education program, including extended care hours; and
 47 (2) The conducting of at least one drill other than a fire drill every six months.

48 All drills required under this subsection shall be conducted in such a way as to simulate,
 49 as closely as is practical, conditions of a real emergency with alarms to be utilized and
 50 evacuation plans to be practiced.

51 (f)(1) Emergency telephone numbers for local and state emergency entities shall be
 52 posted immediately next to all landline telephones located within early care and education
 53 programs and be readily available to all staff of early care and education programs. Such
 54 local and state emergency entities that shall have telephone numbers posted shall include
 55 the:

- 56 (A) Local fire department;
 57 (B) Local police and sheriff's departments;
 58 (C) Nearest hospital emergency room;
 59 (D) Abuse hotline of the Department of Human Services;
 60 (E) Local emergency management agency;
 61 (F) Local ambulance or rescue squad;
 62 (G) Poison control center; and

99 functions when such transportation is furnished by the school or school system and school
 100 functions held during noninstructional hours.

101 (c.1) By January 1, 2016, school safety plans prepared by public schools shall address:

102 (1) Evacuating and safely moving and transporting students to an alternate site. Such
 103 alternate site shall be at a location as centralized to the public school as possible and
 104 sufficiently large enough to house the enrollment of such public school in instances that
 105 such alternate site becomes the location for sheltering students;

106 (2) The training of staff on evacuation routes and procedures and the responsibilities of
 107 staff and students during an evacuation;

108 (3) Procedures for notifying parents and legal guardians of students in cases of
 109 emergency;

110 (4) Reunification of students with parents and legal guardians in cases where such
 111 students require sheltering in place or relocation in cases of emergency;

112 (5) Maintaining a list of telephone numbers and next of kin for each student obtained
 113 from the parent or legal guardian of each student for use in cases of emergency where
 114 contact cannot be made with the parent or legal guardian; and

115 (6) Accommodation of students and staff with disabilities who may require special
 116 access and needs.

117 (d) The Georgia Emergency Management Agency shall provide training and technical
 118 assistance to public school systems, and may provide this same training and technical
 119 assistance to private school systems, and independent private schools throughout this state
 120 in the area of emergency management and safe school operations. This training and
 121 technical assistance shall include, but not be limited to, crisis response team development,
 122 site surveys and safety audits, crisis management planning, exercise design, safe school
 123 planning, emergency operations planning, search and seizure, bomb threat management,
 124 and model school safety plans.

125 (e) On January 15 of each year, the director of emergency management shall make an
 126 annual report to the General Assembly on school safety plans and the overall preparedness
 127 of schools in Georgia for emergencies as provided for by this Code section. Such report
 128 shall evaluate the preparedness of schools in Georgia as informed by the presidential policy
 129 directive, PPD-8, on national preparedness as signed by the president on March 30, 2011,
 130 and the Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans as issued
 131 by the United States Department of Education in June, 2013."

132 SECTION 4.

133 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.