

House File 163 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 163
BY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

(SUCCESSOR TO HSB 47)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to school safety by requiring the creation of
2 threat assessment teams and authorizing information sharing
3 between certain governmental agencies.
4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

unofficial

1 Section 1. NEW SECTION. **29D.1 Information sharing — school**
2 **safety.**

3 1. For purposes of this section:

4 a. "Covered entity" includes all of the following:

5 (1) A nonpublic school.

6 (2) A charter school established pursuant to chapter 256E.

7 (3) A charter school or innovation zone school established
8 pursuant to chapter 256F.

9 (4) The judicial branch.

10 (5) A criminal or juvenile justice agency as defined in
11 section 692.1.

12 (6) A political subdivision.

13 (7) A state agency.

14 (8) Any service or support provider that contracts with a
15 person described in subparagraphs (1) through (7).

16 b. "Nonpublic school" means the same as defined in section
17 280.2.

18 c. "Political subdivision" means a city, county, school
19 district, or township.

20 d. "School district" means a school corporation organized
21 under chapter 274.

22 e. "State agency" means a department, board, bureau,
23 commission, or other agency or authority of the state of Iowa.

24 2. Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary,
25 including section 22.7, any covered entity that provides services
26 to students enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve who are
27 experiencing or at risk of an emotional disturbance or mental
28 illness, or who pose an articulable and significant threat to the
29 health and safety of any person, may share records or information
30 that are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate
31 services for such students, or to ensure the safety of such
32 students or others, with any other such covered entity.

33 3. A covered entity may communicate, collaborate, and
34 coordinate efforts with other covered entities to best serve
35 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade twelve who are

1 experiencing or at risk of an emotional disturbance or mental
2 illness, or who pose an articulable and significant threat to the
3 health and safety of any person.

4 Sec. 2. Section 256E.7, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
5 by adding the following new paragraphs:

6 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0d. Be subject to and comply with the
7 requirements of section 29D.1 relating to the sharing of
8 records or information, and the communication, collaboration,
9 and coordination of efforts to best serve students, in the same
10 manner as a school district.

11 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0t. Be subject to and comply with the
12 requirements of section 280.36 relating to the establishment of
13 a multidisciplinary threat assessment team in the same manner as
14 a school district.

15 Sec. 3. Section 256F.4, subsection 2, Code 2025, is amended
16 by adding the following new paragraphs:

17 NEW PARAGRAPH. 0d. Be subject to and comply with the
18 requirements of section 29D.1 relating to the sharing of
19 records or information, and the communication, collaboration,
20 and coordination of efforts to best serve students, in the same
21 manner as a school district.

22 NEW PARAGRAPH. r. Be subject to and comply with the
23 requirements of section 280.36 relating to the establishment of
24 a multidisciplinary threat assessment team in the same manner as
25 a school district.

26 Sec. 4. NEW SECTION. **280.36 Multidisciplinary threat**
27 **assessment teams — immunity.**

28 1. The board of directors of each school district and
29 the authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school
30 may establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team. If
31 established, the multidisciplinary threat assessment team shall
32 coordinate resources and assess and intervene when a student
33 enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic school
34 exhibits behavior that may pose a threat to the safety of the
35 school district or accredited nonpublic school, employees of the

1 school district or accredited nonpublic school, or other student
2 enrolled in the school district or accredited nonpublic school.

3 2. The multidisciplinary threat assessment team may consist
4 of any of the following members:

5 a. A local law enforcement official.

6 b. A representative from juvenile court services.

7 c. A mental health professional.

8 d. A social services representative.

9 e. A school official.

10 3. The board of directors of a school district or the
11 authorities in charge of an accredited nonpublic school may
12 enter into an agreement with another school district, accredited
13 nonpublic school, charter school, or innovation zone school to
14 create a multidisciplinary threat assessment team that shall
15 coordinate resources among the schools and assess and intervene
16 when a student enrolled in either school exhibits behavior that
17 may pose a threat to the safety of either school, employees of
18 either school, or students enrolled in either school.

19 4. A multidisciplinary threat assessment team may share
20 records or information in accordance with section 29D.1.

21 5. In addition to any other immunity available, any person
22 who, in good faith with reasonable cause and without malice,
23 acts to report, investigate, or cause any investigation to
24 be made into the activities of a student or other person as
25 such report or investigation relates to conduct or information
26 indicating that the student or person poses a credible danger of
27 serious bodily injury or death to one or more students, school
28 employees, or others on school property shall be immune from all
29 civil liability that might otherwise be incurred or imposed as
30 the result of the making of such a report, investigation, or
31 disclosure.

32 EXPLANATION

33 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
34 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

35 This bill relates to school safety by requiring the creation

1 of threat assessment teams and authorizing information sharing
2 between certain governmental agencies.

3 The bill allows covered entities that provide services to
4 students enrolled in kindergarten through grade 12 who are
5 experiencing or at risk of an emotional disturbance or mental
6 illness, or who pose an articulable and significant threat to the
7 health and safety of any person, to share records or information
8 that are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate
9 services for such students, or to ensure the safety of such
10 students or others, with any other such covered entity. The bill
11 authorizes all such covered entities to communicate, collaborate,
12 and coordinate efforts to best serve students. The bill defines
13 "covered entity" to include nonpublic schools, charter schools,
14 innovation zone schools, the judicial branch, a criminal or
15 juvenile justice agency, political subdivisions, state agencies,
16 and any service or support provider that contracts with such
17 persons.

18 The bill authorizes school districts, accredited nonpublic
19 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools to
20 establish a multidisciplinary threat assessment team. The
21 multidisciplinary threat assessment team is required to
22 coordinate resources and assess and intervene when a student
23 enrolled in the school exhibits behavior that may pose a threat
24 to the safety of the school, school employees, or other students
25 enrolled in the school. The bill establishes the membership
26 of the multidisciplinary threat assessment team. The bill
27 authorizes school districts to enter into an agreement with
28 another school to create a multidisciplinary threat assessment
29 team that covers both schools. The bill also authorizes
30 multidisciplinary threat assessment teams to share records or
31 information in accordance with the bill's provisions. The bill
32 provides immunity from civil liability to certain specified
33 persons who report information related to school safety.