

House File 586 - Introduced

HOUSE FILE 586

BY VONDRAN

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the development of a policy governing
2 responses to a fire alarm activated on school grounds outside
3 of a scheduled fire drill by school districts, accredited
4 nonpublic schools, charter schools, and innovation zone
5 schools, and including effective date provisions.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

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1 Section 1. Section 256E.7, Code 2025, is amended by adding
2 the following new subsection:

3 NEW SUBSECTION. 8A. Each charter school governing board
4 shall adopt a policy that directs how students, charter school
5 employees, and individuals who are not charter school employees
6 but who are required as part of the individual's employment to
7 regularly be present in a school building are to respond when a
8 fire alarm is activated on school grounds outside of a scheduled
9 fire drill to protect such individuals in the event the fire
10 alarm was activated due to the presence of an active shooter on
11 school grounds.

12 Sec. 2. Section 256F.4, Code 2025, is amended by adding the
13 following new subsection:

14 NEW SUBSECTION. 9. Each charter school or innovation zone
15 school shall adopt a policy that directs how students, school
16 employees, and individuals who are not school employees but who
17 are required as part of the individual's employment to regularly
18 be present in a school building are to respond when a fire alarm
19 is activated on school grounds outside of a scheduled fire drill
20 to protect such individuals in the event the fire alarm was
21 activated due to the presence of an active shooter on school
22 grounds.

23 Sec. 3. Section 280.30, subsection 1, Code 2025, is amended
24 to read as follows:

25 1. The board of directors of a school district and the
26 authorities in charge of each accredited nonpublic school shall
27 develop a high-quality emergency operations plan for the district
28 and individual school buildings in which students are educated
29 ~~no later than June 30, 2019. The plan shall include but not~~
30 ~~be limited to responses to active shooter scenarios and natural~~
31 ~~disasters.~~ The plan shall provide that any alert regarding an
32 emergency situation that is transmitted to school personnel or
33 students by electronic means shall also be transmitted to the
34 employer of any individual who is not a school employee but
35 who is required as a part of the individual's employment to

1 regularly be present in a school building during the school year.
2 ~~The plan shall include publication of procedures for school~~
3 ~~personnel, parents, and guardians to report possible threats to~~
4 ~~the safety of students or school personnel on school grounds or~~
5 ~~at school activities.~~ The board and authorities shall consider
6 any recommendations of the department of education relating to
7 the development of a high-quality emergency operations plan and
8 shall consult with local emergency management coordinators and
9 local law enforcement agencies in the development of the plan.
10 The board and authorities shall review and update the plan on an
11 annual basis. The plan shall be confidential and shall not be a
12 public record subject to disclosure under chapter 22. The plan
13 shall include all of the following:

14 a. Responses to active shooter scenarios and natural
15 disasters.

16 b. The publication of procedures for school personnel,
17 parents, and guardians to report possible threats to the safety
18 of students or school personnel on school grounds or at school
19 activities.

20 c. A policy that directs how students, school employees, and
21 individuals who are not school employees but who are required as
22 part of the individual's employment to regularly be present in a
23 school building are to respond when a fire alarm is activated on
24 school grounds outside of a scheduled fire drill to protect such
25 individuals in the event the fire alarm was activated due to the
26 presence of an active shooter on school grounds.

27 Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act, being deemed of immediate
28 importance, takes effect upon enactment.

29 EXPLANATION

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

32 This bill relates to the development of a policy governing
33 responses to a fire alarm activated on school grounds outside of
34 a scheduled fire drill by school districts, accredited nonpublic
35 schools, charter schools, and innovation zone schools.

1 The bill requires that school districts and accredited
2 nonpublic schools include in the high-quality school building
3 emergency operations plan a policy that directs how students,
4 school employees, and individuals who are not school employees
5 but who are required as part of the individual's employment to
6 regularly be present in a school building are to respond when a
7 fire alarm is activated on school grounds outside of a scheduled
8 fire drill to protect such individuals in the event the fire
9 alarm was activated due to the presence of an active shooter
10 on school grounds. The bill also requires charter schools and
11 innovation zone schools to adopt such a policy.

12 The bill takes effect upon enactment.

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