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**HOUSE BILL 1941**

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**State of Washington**

**67th Legislature**

**2022 Regular Session**

**By** Representative Walen

Read first time 01/12/22. Referred to Committee on Education.

1 AN ACT Relating to prohibiting active shooter scenarios for  
2 school safety-related drills; and amending RCW 28A.320.125.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 **Sec. 1.** RCW 28A.320.125 and 2021 c 223 s 1 are each amended to  
5 read as follows:

6 (1) The legislature considers it to be a matter of public safety  
7 for public schools and staff to have current safe school plans and  
8 procedures in place, fully consistent with federal law. The  
9 legislature further finds and intends, by requiring safe school plans  
10 to be in place, that school districts will become eligible for  
11 federal assistance. The legislature further finds that schools are in  
12 a position to serve the community in the event of an emergency  
13 resulting from natural disasters or human-induced disasters.

14 (2) Schools and school districts shall consider the guidance and  
15 resources provided by the state school safety center, established  
16 under RCW 28A.300.630, and the regional school safety centers,  
17 established under RCW 28A.310.510, when developing their own  
18 individual comprehensive safe school plans. Each school district  
19 shall adopt and implement a safe school plan. The plan shall:

20 (a) Include required school safety policies and procedures;

1 (b) Address emergency mitigation, preparedness, response, and  
2 recovery;

3 (c) Include provisions for assisting and communicating with  
4 students and staff, including those with special needs or  
5 disabilities;

6 (d) Include a family-student reunification plan, including  
7 procedures for communicating the reunification plan to staff,  
8 students, families, and emergency responders;

9 (e) Use the training guidance provided by the Washington  
10 emergency management division of the state military department in  
11 collaboration with the state school safety center in the office of  
12 the superintendent of public instruction, established under RCW  
13 28A.300.630, and the school safety and student well-being advisory  
14 committee, established under RCW 28A.300.635;

15 (f) Require the building principal to be certified on the  
16 incident command system;

17 (g) Take into account the manner in which the school facilities  
18 may be used as a community asset in the event of a community-wide  
19 emergency; and

20 (h) Set guidelines for requesting city or county law enforcement  
21 agencies, local fire departments, emergency service providers, and  
22 county emergency management agencies to meet with school districts  
23 and participate in safety-related drills.

24 (3) To the extent funds are available, school districts shall  
25 annually:

26 (a) Review and update safe school plans in collaboration with  
27 local emergency response agencies;

28 (b) Conduct an inventory of all hazardous materials;

29 (c) Update information to reflect current plans, including:

30 (i) Identifying all staff members who are trained on the national  
31 incident management system, trained on the incident command system,  
32 or are certified on the incident command system; and

33 (ii) Identifying school transportation procedures for evacuation,  
34 to include bus staging areas, evacuation routes, communication  
35 systems, parent-student reunification sites, and secondary  
36 transportation agreements; and

37 (d) Provide information to all staff on the use of emergency  
38 supplies and notification and alert procedures.

39 (4) School districts are encouraged to work with local emergency  
40 management agencies and other emergency responders to conduct one

1 tabletop exercise, one functional exercise, and two full-scale  
2 exercises within a four-year period.

3 (5) (a) Due to geographic location, schools have unique safety  
4 challenges. It is the responsibility of school principals and  
5 administrators to assess the threats and hazards most likely to  
6 impact their school, and to practice three basic functional drills,  
7 shelter-in-place, lockdown, and evacuation, as these drills relate to  
8 those threats and hazards. Some threats or hazards may require the  
9 use of more than one basic functional drill.

10 (b) Schools shall conduct at least one safety-related drill per  
11 month, including summer months when school is in session with  
12 students. These drills must teach students three basic functional  
13 drill responses:

14 (i) "Shelter-in-place," used to limit the exposure of students  
15 and staff to hazardous materials, such as chemical, biological, or  
16 radiological contaminants, released into the environment by isolating  
17 the inside environment from the outside;

18 (ii) "Lockdown," used to isolate students and staff from threats  
19 of violence, such as suspicious trespassers or armed intruders, that  
20 may occur in a school or in the vicinity of a school; and

21 (iii) "Evacuation," used to move students and staff away from  
22 threats, such as fires, oil train spills, lahars, or tsunamis.

23 (c) The drills described in (b) of this subsection must  
24 incorporate the following requirements:

25 (i) A pedestrian evacuation drill for schools in mapped lahars or  
26 tsunami hazard zones; and

27 (ii) An earthquake drill using the state-approved earthquake  
28 safety technique "drop, cover, and hold."

29 (d) The drills described in (b) of this subsection and any other  
30 safety-related drills conducted by schools may not be based on active  
31 shooter scenarios.

32 (e) Schools shall document the date, time, and type (shelter-in-  
33 place, lockdown, or evacuate) of each drill required under this  
34 subsection (5), and maintain the documentation in the school office.

35 ~~((e))~~ (f) This subsection (5) is intended to satisfy all  
36 federal requirements for comprehensive school emergency drills and  
37 evacuations.

38 (6) Educational service districts are encouraged to apply for  
39 federal emergency response and crisis management grants with the  
40 assistance of the superintendent of public instruction and the

1 Washington emergency management division of the state military  
2 department.

3 (7) The superintendent of public instruction may adopt rules to  
4 implement provisions of this section. These rules may include, but  
5 are not limited to, provisions for evacuations, lockdowns, or other  
6 components of a comprehensive safe school plan.

7 (8) (a) Whenever a first responder agency notifies a school of a  
8 situation that may necessitate an evacuation or lockdown, the agency  
9 must determine if other known schools in the vicinity are similarly  
10 threatened. The first responder agency must notify every other known  
11 school in the vicinity for which an evacuation or lockdown appears  
12 reasonably necessary to the agency's incident commander unless the  
13 agency is unable to notify schools due to duties directly tied to  
14 responding to the incident occurring. For purposes of this  
15 subsection, "school" includes a private school under chapter 28A.195  
16 RCW.

17 (b) A first responder agency and its officers, agents, and  
18 employees are not liable for any act, or failure to act, under this  
19 subsection unless a first responder agency and its officers, agents,  
20 and employees acted with willful disregard.

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