SENATE BILL REPORT
SB 5004

As of January 15, 2025

Title: An act relating to emergency response systems in public schools including panic or alert buttons.

Brief Description: Updating emergency response systems in public schools including panic or alert buttons.

Sponsors: Senators Torres, Christian, Dozier, Harris, Krishnadasan, McCune, Salomon, Schoesler and Wilson, J..

Brief History:
Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 1/15/25.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Defines emergency response systems as it relates to an existing school district requirement to develop this type of system.
- Directs school districts and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction to submit a report on the types of emergency response systems used.
- Applies these existing requirements on charter schools and state-tribal education compact schools.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Ailey Kato (786-7434)

Background: State law requires school districts to work collaboratively with local law enforcement agencies and school security personnel to develop an emergency response system using evolving technology to expedite the response and arrival of law enforcement when there is a threat or emergency.

This analysis was prepared by non-partisan legislative staff for the use of legislative members in their deliberations. This analysis is not part of the legislation nor does it constitute a statement of legislative intent.

School districts are encouraged to use model policies developed by the School Safety Center in the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI).

In 2014, school districts were required to submit a progress report on their implementation of an emergency response system.

Summary of Bill: For the purpose of the existing school district requirement to develop an emergency response system, these systems include:

- panic or alert buttons that are tied to school administration, school district staff, and emergency response providers;
- live video feed with law enforcement, school district, and school access;
- live audio feed with law enforcement, school district, and school access;
- remote control access to doors;
- live interactive two-way communications; or
- interconnection with an alert and communication system maintained by the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

The encouragement for school districts to use model OSPI policies is removed.

School districts must submit another progress report by October 1, 2025. By December 1, 2025, OSPI must compile the information submitted by school districts and report to the Legislature on the types of emergency response systems used by school districts.

These requirements are applied to charter schools and state-tribal education compact schools.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Requested on January 7, 2025.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: Ninety days after adjournment of session in which bill is passed.