

CHAPTER 2024-155

Committee Substitute for Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 1473

An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15, F.S.; providing that private schools are responsible for specified costs relating to school guardian programs; authorizing sheriffs to waive specified costs for private schools; prohibiting specified funds from being used to subsidize certain costs; authorizing certain persons to be certified as school guardians without completing certain training requirements; revising specified training requirements for school guardians; requiring school districts, charter schools, private schools, and sheriffs to report specified information relating to school guardians and school guardian programs to the Department of Law Enforcement within specified timeframes; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to maintain a list of school guardians and school guardian trainings; providing for the removal of specified persons from such list; providing requirements for such list; prohibiting sheriffs who fail to report specified information from receiving certain reimbursement; prohibiting school districts, charter schools, and private schools that fail to report specified information from operating school guardian programs for the following school year, unless the school district, charter school, or private school has submitted the required information; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to report certain information to the Department of Education by specified dates of each school year; authorizing the Department of Law Enforcement to adopt rules; amending 330.41, F.S.; prohibiting the operation of a drone over public and private schools and the recording of video of such schools; providing criminal penalties; providing exemptions; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to ensure specified instruction relating to the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool be provided to students within a specified timeframe; providing requirements for such instruction; amending s. 985.04, F.S.; requiring the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee, to notify specified chiefs of police or public safety directors of certain postsecondary institutions within a specified alleged acts by children dual enrolled at such institutions within a specified timeframe; amending s. 1001.212, F.S.; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to develop and adopt a specified report relating to compliance and noncompliance with school safety requirements by a specified date; requiring the office to provide such report to specified persons; requiring the office to conduct specified inspections triennially and investigate certain noncompliance; providing requirements for the provision of specified information from such inspections and investigations; requiring the office to provide certain quarterly reports to specified persons; requiring the office to provide bonuses to certain persons who comply with specified requirements; requiring the office to refer certain personnel to specified persons; requiring the office to notify specified personnel electronically of certain requirements; requiring the

office to evaluate the methodology for the safe schools allocation and, if necessary, recommend an alternative methodology for specified purposes by a specified date; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring schools, including charter schools, to maintain a specified record relating to certain drills; providing that school safety specialist duties may be completed by his or her designee; providing that certain school safety specialist duties are in conjunction with the district school superintendent; requiring school safety specialists to conduct specified annual inspections, investigate specified reports of noncompliance, and report certain noncompliance and violations to specified individuals and the district school board; requiring school districts and charter school governing boards to comply with certain school safety requirements by a specified date; providing reporting requirements for violations of certain school safety requirements; requiring district school boards and charter school governing boards to adopt a progressive discipline policy for specified personnel who commit specified violations; amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; requiring specified agreements relating to school resource officers to identify the entity responsible for maintaining specified records; providing requirements before the appointment of a school guardian; requiring the Department of Education to provide certain information to the Department of Law Enforcement; repealing specified training requirements for safe-school officers; subject to legislative appropriation, requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to provide grants to sheriffs' offices and law enforcement agencies for specified purposes relating to school safety in private schools; providing requirements for such grants; requiring the Department of Law Enforcement to develop a specified form and provide such form to grant recipients; providing requirements for the use of such funds; providing a limit on the amount of funds an applicant may receive; providing an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

(1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by deputy, shall:

(k) Assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with, or private schools in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program, the sheriff in that county shall establish a guardian program to provide training, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school district,

charter school, or private school employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program.

b. A charter school governing board in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such training. The charter school governing board must notify the superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its execution.

c. A private school in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of the private school establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private school employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the private school may contract with a sheriff from another county who has established a guardian program to provide such training. The private school must notify the sheriff in the private school's county of the contract with a sheriff from another county before its execution. The private school is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a private school are not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff providing such training shall adhere to the course of instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing additional training. A school guardian who has completed the training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her appointment ~~employment~~ as a guardian.

e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-related costs for a private school for a school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have been waived by the sheriff.

g. A person who is certified and in good standing under the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission, who meets the

qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian may be certified as a school guardian by the sheriff without completing the training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person certified as a school guardian under this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees, as specified in s. 1006.12(3), who:

a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06.

b. Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises certified nationally recognized diversity training and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

(I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

(II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

(III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

(IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or assailant scenarios.

(V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

(VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s. 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual basis.

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons ~~individuals~~ who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. A person ~~An individual~~ who is certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district superintendent, charter school principal, or private school head of school.

3.a.(I) Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian.

(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of each school guardian who received a certificate from the sheriff.

b.(I) By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian. The school district, charter school, and private school must also report to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each school guardian separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian.

(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter school, and private school must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a school guardian.

c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list of each person appointed as a school guardian in the state. The list must include the name and certification date of each school guardian and the date the person was appointed as a school guardian, including the name of the school district, charter school, or private school in which the school guardian is appointed, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her appointment as a school guardian. The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

d. Each sheriff must report on a quarterly basis to the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school guardian trainings, including the dates of the training, the training locations, a contact person to register for the training, and the class capacity. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming school

guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement must update such list quarterly.

e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

f. A school district, charter school, or private school that fails to report the information required by this subparagraph may not operate a school guardian program for the following school year, unless the school district, charter school, or private school has submitted the required information.

g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, or private school that has not complied with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to uniquely identify each school guardian reported.

Section 2. Subsection (5) of section 330.41, Florida Statutes, is renumbered as subsection (6), and a new subsection (5) is added to that section to read:

330.41 Unmanned Aircraft Systems Act.—

(5) PROTECTION OF SCHOOLS.—

(a) A person may not knowingly or willfully:

1. Operate a drone over a public or private school serving students in any grade from voluntary prekindergarten through grade 12; or

2. Allow a drone to make contact with a school, including any person or object on the premises of or within the school facility.

(b) A person who violates paragraph (a) commits a misdemeanor of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A person who commits a second or subsequent violation commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083.

(c) A person who violates paragraph (a) and records video of the school, including any person or object on the premises of or within the school facility, commits a misdemeanor of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082 or s. 775.083. A person who commits a second or subsequent

violation commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084.

(d) This subsection does not apply to actions identified in paragraph (a) which are committed by:

1. A person acting under the prior written consent of the school principal, district school board, superintendent, or school governing board.

2. A law enforcement agency that is in compliance with s. 934.50 or a person under contract with or otherwise acting under the direction of such law enforcement agency.

Section 3. Paragraph (b) of subsection (4) of section 943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—

(4)

(b) The district school board shall promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on the school district website, in newsletters, on school campuses, and in school publications, by installing it on all mobile devices issued to students, and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices issued to students. Within the first 5 days of each school year, each district school board and charter school governing board must ensure that instruction on the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool known as FortifyFL is provided to students. The instruction must be age and developmentally appropriate and include the consequences for making a threat or false report as described in ss. 790.162 and 790.163, respectively, involving school or school personnel's property, school transportation, or a school-sponsored activity.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 985.04, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

985.04 Oaths; records; confidential information.—

(4)(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, when a child of any age is taken into custody by a law enforcement officer for an offense that would have been a felony if committed by an adult, or a crime of violence, the law enforcement agency must notify the superintendent of schools that the child is alleged to have committed the delinquent act. If the child is a dual enrolled student at a postsecondary institution, the superintendent of schools, or his or her designee, must notify the chief of police or the public safety director of the postsecondary institution at which the student is dual enrolled within 1 business day after receiving the initial notification.

Section 5. Subsection (14) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsections (17) and (18) are added to that section, to read:

1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The office shall serve as a central repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security, including prevention efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning. The office shall:

(14)(a) By August 1, 2024, develop and adopt a Florida school safety compliance inspection report to document compliance or noncompliance with school safety requirements mandated by law or rule and adherence to established school safety best practices to evaluate the safety, security, and emergency response of the school. Upon the adoption of the report and upon any revisions to the report, the office shall provide a blank copy of the report to each district school superintendent and charter school administrator.

(b) Monitor compliance with requirements relating to school safety by school districts and public schools, including charter schools. The office shall conduct unannounced inspections of all public schools, including charter schools, while school is in session, triennially and investigate reports of noncompliance with school safety requirements. Within 3 school days after the unannounced inspection, the office shall provide a copy of the completed Florida school safety compliance inspection report, including any photographs or other evidence of noncompliance, to the school safety specialist, the school principal or charter school administrator, as appropriate, and the district school superintendent. The school safety specialist or charter school administrator shall acknowledge receipt of the report in writing within 1 school day after receipt. The office shall reinspect any school with documented deficiencies within 6 months. The school safety specialist or charter school administrator, or his or her designee, must provide the office with written notice of how the noncompliance with s. 1006.07(6)(f) has been remediated within 3 school days after receipt of the report.

(c) Provide quarterly reports to each district school superintendent and school safety specialist identifying the number and percentage of schools, including charter schools, inspected or reinspected during that quarter and the number and percentage of inspected schools that had no school safety requirement deficiencies. The school safety specialist shall present each quarterly report to the district school board in a public meeting. Annually, during the first quarter of every school year, the school safety specialist shall report to the district school board in a public meeting the number of schools inspected during the preceding calendar year and the number and percentage of schools in compliance during the initial inspection and reinspection.

(d) Provide a bonus in an amount determined in the General Appropriations Act, at the conclusion of the initial unannounced inspection conducted during the triennial period, to the school principal or charter school administrator of each school that complies with all school safety requirements.

(e) Refer any instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and any administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate s. 1006.07(6)(f) to the district school superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable, for disciplinary action if such action has not already been commenced by the district school superintendent or charter school administrator upon receipt of the Florida school safety compliance inspection report. The district school superintendent or charter school administrator must notify the office of the outcome of the disciplinary proceedings within 3 school days after the conclusion of the proceedings.

(17) Annually, at the beginning of the school year, notify all administrative and instructional personnel by electronic mail of the requirements of s. 1006.07(6)(f).

(18) By December 1, 2024, evaluate the methodology for the safe schools allocation in s. 1011.62(12) and, if necessary, make recommendations for an alternate methodology to distribute the remaining balance of the safe schools allocation as indicated in s. 1011.62(12) report incidents of noncompliance to the commissioner pursuant to s. 1001.11(9) and the state board pursuant to s. 1008.32 and other requirements of law, as appropriate.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) and paragraph (a) of subsection (6) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are amended, and paragraph (f) is added to subsection (6) of that section, to read:

1006.07 District school board duties relating to student discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the attendance and control of students at school, and for proper attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the welfare of students, including:

(4) EMERGENCY DRILLS; EMERGENCY PROCEDURES.—

(a) Formulate and prescribe policies and procedures, in consultation with the appropriate public safety agencies, for emergency drills and for actual emergencies, including, but not limited to, fires, natural disasters, active assailant and hostage situations, and bomb threats, for all students and faculty at all public schools of the district composed of grades K-12, pursuant to State Board of Education rules. Drills for active assailant and hostage situations must be conducted in accordance with developmentally appropriate and age-appropriate procedures, as specified in State Board of Education rules. Law enforcement officers responsible for responding to the school in the event of an active assailant emergency, as determined necessary by the sheriff in coordination with the district's school safety specialist, must be physically present on campus and directly involved in the execution of active assailant emergency drills. School districts must notify law enforcement officers at least 24 hours before conducting an active assailant emergency drill at which such law enforcement officers are expected to attend. Each school, including charter schools, must maintain

a record that is accessible on each campus or by request of the Office of Safe Schools of all current school year and prior school year drills conducted pursuant to this subsection, including the names of law enforcement personnel present on campus for each active assailant emergency drill. District school board policies must include commonly used alarm system responses for specific types of emergencies and verification by each school that drills have been provided as required by law, State Board of Education rules, and fire protection codes and may provide accommodations for drills conducted by exceptional student education centers. District school boards shall establish emergency response and emergency preparedness policies and procedures that include, but are not limited to, identifying the individuals responsible for contacting the primary emergency response agency and the emergency response agency responsible for notifying the school district for each type of emergency. The State Board of Education shall refer to recommendations provided in reports published pursuant to s. 943.687 for guidance and, by August 1, 2023, consult with state and local constituencies to adopt rules applicable to the requirements of this subsection which, at a minimum, define the terms “emergency drill,” “active threat,” and “after-action report” and establish minimum emergency drill policies and procedures related to the timing, frequency, participation, training, notification, accommodations, and responses to threat situations by incident type, school level, school type, and student and school characteristics. The rules must require all types of emergency drills to be conducted no less frequently than on an annual school year basis.

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

(a) School safety specialist.—Each district school superintendent shall designate a school safety specialist for the district. The school safety specialist must be a school administrator employed by the school district or a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in the school district. Any school safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office must first be authorized and approved by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer. Any school safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office remains the employee of the office for purposes of compensation, insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer as a school safety specialist. The school safety specialist must earn a certificate of completion of the school safety specialist training provided by the Office of Safe Schools within 1 year after appointment and is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, shall:

1. In conjunction with the district school superintendent, annually review school district policies and procedures for compliance with state law and rules, including the district's timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety incident reports to the department pursuant to s. 1001.212(8). At least quarterly, the school safety specialist must report to the district school superintendent and the district school board any noncompliance by the school district with laws or rules regarding school safety.

2. Provide the necessary training and resources to students and school district staff in matters relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures, including active shooter training; and school safety and security.

3. Serve as the school district liaison with local public safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

4. In collaboration with the appropriate public safety agencies, as that term is defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of each year, conduct a school security risk assessment at each public school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1006.1493. Based on the assessment findings, the district's school safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the district school superintendent and the district school board which identify strategies and activities that the district school board should implement in order to address the findings and improve school safety and security. Each district school board must receive such findings and the school safety specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the district school board members discuss and take action on the findings and recommendations. Each school safety specialist, through the district school superintendent, shall report such findings and school board action to the Office of Safe Schools within 30 days after the district school board meeting.

5. Conduct annual unannounced inspections, using the form adopted by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1001.212(14), of all public schools, including charter schools, while school is in session and investigate reports of noncompliance with school safety requirements.

6. Report violations of paragraph (f) by administrative personnel and instructional personnel to the district school superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable.

(f) School safety requirements.—

1. By August 1, 2024, each school district and charter school governing board shall comply with the following school safety requirements:

a. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during normal school hours, unless:

(I) Attended or actively staffed by a person when students are on campus;

(II) The use is in accordance with a shared use agreement pursuant to s. 1013.101; or

(III) The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate.

b. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students, except between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for any reason other than between class periods when students are moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at the door.

c. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress, unless a person is actively entering or exiting the door, gate, or other access point or the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school personnel.

d. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each classroom or other instructional space where students must shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year. If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must report the violation to the school principal. The school principal must report the violation to the school safety specialist no later than the next business day after receiving such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the school principal or charter school administrator, the report must be made directly to the district school superintendent or charter school governing board, as applicable.

(g) Progressive discipline policy.—Each district school board and charter school governing board shall adopt a progressive discipline policy for addressing any instructional personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(2) and any administrative personnel as defined in s. 1012.01(3) who knowingly violate school safety requirements.

Section 7. Paragraph (b) of subsection (1) and subsections (3) and (6) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For the protection and safety of school personnel, property, students, and visitors, each district school board and school district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more safe-school officers at each school facility within the district, including charter schools. A district school board must collaborate with charter school governing boards to facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer options available under this section. The school district may implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)-(4) to best meet the needs of the school district and charter schools.

(1) SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER.—A school district may establish school resource officer programs through a cooperative agreement with law enforcement agencies.

(b) School resource officers shall abide by district school board policies and shall consult with and coordinate activities through the school principal, but shall be responsible to the law enforcement agency in all matters relating to employment, subject to agreements between a district school board and a law enforcement agency. The agreements shall identify the entity responsible for maintaining records relating to training. Activities conducted by the school resource officer which are part of the regular instructional program of the school shall be under the direction of the school principal.

(3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

(a) At the school district's or the charter school governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s. 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s.

790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a sheriff:

~~1.(a)~~ A school district employee or personnel, as defined under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

~~2.(b)~~ An employee of a school district or a charter school who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.

(b) Before appointing an individual as a school guardian, the school district or charter school shall contact the Department of Law Enforcement and review all information maintained under s. 30.15(1)(k)3.c. related to the individual.

(c) The department shall provide to the Department of Law Enforcement any information relating to a school guardian received pursuant to subsection (5).

(6) CRISIS INTERVENTION TRAINING.—

(a) Each safe-school officer who is also a sworn law enforcement officer shall complete mental health crisis intervention training using a curriculum developed by a national organization with expertise in mental health crisis intervention. The training must improve the officer's knowledge and skills as a first responder to incidents involving students with emotional disturbance or mental illness, including de-escalation skills to ensure student and officer safety.

~~(b) Each safe-school officer who is not a sworn law enforcement officer shall receive training to improve the officer's knowledge and skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school premises.~~

If a district school board, through its adopted policies, procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school district must assign a school resource officer or school safety officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the charter school's share of the costs of the school resource officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s. 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

Section 8. For the 2024-2025 fiscal year and subject to legislative appropriation, the Department of Law Enforcement shall provide grants to sheriffs' offices and law enforcement agencies to conduct physical site security assessments for and provide reports to private schools with recommendations on improving such schools' infrastructure safety and security; to assist private schools in developing active assailant response protocols and develop and implement training relating to active assailant responses, including active assailant response drills for students and school personnel; and to consult with or provide guidance to private schools in

implementing a threat management program similar to the program required under s. 1001.212(12), Florida Statutes, for public schools. The Department of Law Enforcement shall develop a site security assessment form for use by sheriffs' offices and law enforcement agencies and provide the form, including any subsequent revisions, to the recipient of funds in conducting the duties outlined in this section. Grants awarded under this section may be used to provide reimbursements for personnel costs, software, and other items necessary to assist private schools. The Department of Law Enforcement shall establish the requirements for awarding grants under this section. An applicant may not receive more than 10 percent of the total amount appropriated for the program.

Section 9. This act shall take effect July 1, 2024.

Approved by the Governor May 6, 2024.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 6, 2024.