

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA  
SESSION 2017

H.B. 932  
May 16, 2018  
HOUSE PRINCIPAL CLERK

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HOUSE BILL DRH40687-TCza-44

Short Title: Anonymous Safety Tip Line Application. (Public)

Sponsors: Representatives White, Dobson, Lewis, and Torbett (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS TO SUPPORT THE  
3 ANONYMOUS SAFETY TIP LINE APPLICATION AND TO MAKE CERTAIN  
4 CHANGES TO UPDATE THE GENERAL STATUTES, AS RECOMMENDED BY THE  
5 HOUSE SELECT COMMITTEE ON SCHOOL SAFETY.

6 Whereas, in 2013, the General Assembly encouraged local school administrative units  
7 to develop and operate anonymous tip lines in coordination with local law enforcement and social  
8 services agencies to receive anonymous information on internal or external risks to school  
9 buildings and school-related activities; and

10 Whereas, in 2015, the General Assembly required the Department of Public Safety,  
11 Division of Emergency Management, and the Center for Safer Schools, in collaboration with the  
12 Department of Public Instruction, to implement and maintain an anonymous safety tip line  
13 application for purposes of receiving anonymous student information on internal or external risks  
14 to the school population, school buildings, and school-related activities; and

15 Whereas, the Department of Public Instruction, Center for Safer Schools, has  
16 developed a pilot anonymous safety tip line, SPK UP NC, that enables students to send  
17 anonymous tips about school safety concerns from an application available on mobile and  
18 Web-based technology that is received by school administration to appropriately respond based  
19 on the type of tip; and

20 Whereas, the SPK UP NC application has been piloted in five North Carolina  
21 counties, enabling students to report tips related to bullying, danger, drugs, fighting, underage  
22 drinking, and weapons; and

23 Whereas, results from the pilot have indicated a need for a call center manned 24  
24 hours a day, ongoing marketing and education for students, additional personnel to assist schools  
25 with implementation, and training built into the project; Now, therefore,  
26 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

27  
28 **PART I. ANONYMOUS TIP LINE APPLICATION**

29 **SECTION 1.(a)** G.S. 115C-105.51 reads as rewritten:

30 "**§ 115C-105.51. Anonymous tip lines and monitoring and response applications.**

31 (a) ~~Each local school administrative unit is encouraged to~~ The governing body of each  
32 public secondary school shall develop and operate an anonymous tip line, in coordination with  
33 local law enforcement and social services agencies, to receive anonymous information on internal  
34 or external risks to the school population, school buildings, and school-related activities. The  
35 Department of Public Instruction, in consultation with the Department of Public Safety, may  
36 develop standards and guidelines for the development, operation, and staffing of tip lines. The



1 governing body of each public secondary school may use the anonymous tip line application  
2 developed pursuant to subsection (b) of this section, or another application that meets standards  
3 and guidelines developed by the Department of Public Instruction, to achieve the purposes of this  
4 subsection.

5 (b) The Department of Public Instruction and the Center for Safer Schools, in  
6 collaboration with the Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, shall  
7 implement and maintain an anonymous safety tip line application available statewide for  
8 purposes of receiving anonymous student information on internal or external risks to the school  
9 population, school buildings, and school-related activities. Public secondary schools shall inform  
10 students about the application and provide opportunities for students to learn about its purpose  
11 and function. The governing body of each public secondary school shall work with the  
12 Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Operations, and the Center for Safer  
13 Schools to ensure that employees of the public secondary schools receive adequate training in its  
14 operation.

15 (c) The Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, ~~and the~~  
16 ~~Center for Safer Schools, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction and the~~  
17 ~~North Carolina 911 Board, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, Division~~  
18 ~~of School Operations, and the Center for Safer Schools, shall implement and maintain a statewide~~  
19 ~~panic alarm system for the purposes of launching real-time 911 messaging to public safety~~  
20 ~~answering points of internal and external risks to the school population, school buildings, and~~  
21 ~~school-related activities. The Department of Public Safety, in consultation with the Department~~  
22 ~~of Public Instruction and the North Carolina 911 Board, may develop standards and guidelines~~  
23 ~~for the operations and use of the panic alarm tool.~~

24 (d) The Department of Public ~~Safety-Instruction~~ and the Department of Public Safety  
25 shall ensure that the anonymous safety tip line application is integrated with and supports the  
26 statewide School Risk and Response Management System (SRRMS) as provided in  
27 G.S. 115C-105.49A. Where technically feasible and cost efficient, the Department of Public  
28 Safety ~~is and the Department of Public Instruction are~~ encouraged to implement a single solution  
29 supporting both the anonymous safety tip line application and panic alarm system.

30 (e) All data and information acquired and stored by the anonymous safety tip line  
31 application are not considered public records as the term "public record" is defined under  
32 G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and examination under G.S. 132-6.

33 (f) Notwithstanding subsection (e) of this section, the ~~Division-Department of Public~~  
34 ~~Instruction, Division of School Operations,~~ may collect the annual aggregate number and type of  
35 tips sent to the anonymous tip line. The collection of this aggregate data shall not have any  
36 identifying information on the reporter of the tip, including, but not limited to, the school where  
37 the incident was reported and the date the tip was reported.

38 (g) For the purposes of this section, a "public secondary school" is any of the following  
39 types of public school serving grades six or higher:

40 (1) A school under the control of a local school administrative unit.

41 (2) A school under the control of the State Board of Education, including schools  
42 operated under Article 7A and Article 9C of the General Statutes.

43 (3) A school under the control of The University of North Carolina.

44 (4) A charter school.

45 (5) A regional school."

46 **SECTION 1.(b)** G.S. 115C-12 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

47 "(46) Duty Regarding Anonymous Tip Lines. – The State Board of Education shall  
48 use the anonymous tip line application developed pursuant to  
49 G.S. 115C-105.51(b) for all public secondary schools serving students in  
50 grades six or higher operated under the control of the Board of Governors."

51 **SECTION 1.(c)** G.S. 115C-218.75 is amended by adding a new subsection to read:

1 "(e1) Anonymous Tip Line. – A charter school shall develop and operate an anonymous tip  
2 line in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.51."

3 **SECTION 1.(d)** G.S. 115C-238.66 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

4 "(7e) Anonymous tip line. – A regional school shall develop and operate an  
5 anonymous tip line in accordance with G.S. 115C-105.51."

6 **SECTION 1.(e)** G.S. 116-11 is amended by adding a new subdivision to read:

7 "(12e) The Board of Governors shall develop and operate an anonymous tip line in  
8 accordance with G.S. 115C-105.51 for all public secondary schools, as  
9 defined in that section, operated under the control of the Board of Governors."

## 10 11 **PART II. ANONYMOUS TIP LINE APPLICATION**

12 **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-105.49(d) reads as rewritten:

13 "(d) The Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, ~~and in~~  
14 collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Operations, and the  
15 Center for Safer Schools-Schools, shall provide guidance and recommendations to local school  
16 administrative units on the types of multiple hazards to plan and respond to, including intruders  
17 on school grounds."

18 **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-105.49A reads as rewritten:

19 "**§ 115C-105.49A. School Risk and Response Management System.**

20 (a) The Department of Public Safety, Division of Emergency Management, ~~and the~~  
21 Center for Safer Schools in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction and the  
22 Center for Safer Schools, shall construct and maintain a statewide School Risk and Response  
23 Management System (SRRMS). The system shall fully integrate and leverage existing data and  
24 applications that support school risk planning, exercises, monitoring, and emergency response  
25 via 911 dispatch.

26 (b) In constructing the SRRMS, the Division of Emergency ~~Management-Management~~  
27 of the Department of Public Safety, in collaboration with the Department of Public Instruction  
28 and the Center for Safer Schools-Schools, shall leverage the existing enterprise risk management  
29 database, the School Risk Management Planning tool managed by the ~~Division-Division of~~  
30 Emergency Management. The Division shall also leverage the local school administrative unit  
31 schematic diagrams of school facilities. Where technically feasible, the SRRMS shall integrate  
32 any anonymous tip lines established pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.51 and any 911-initiated panic  
33 alarm systems authorized as part of a SRMP pursuant to G.S. 115C-47(40). The Division ~~and the~~  
34 Center for Safer Schools shall collaborate with the Department of Public ~~Instruction-Instruction,~~  
35 the Center for Safer Schools, and the North Carolina 911 Board in the design, implementation,  
36 and maintenance of the SRRMS.

37 (c) All data and information acquired and stored in the SRRMS as provided in  
38 subsections (a) and (b) of this section are not considered public records as the term "public  
39 record" is defined under G.S. 132-1 and shall not be subject to inspection and examination under  
40 G.S. 132-6."

41 **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 115C-105.52 reads as rewritten:

42 "**§ 115C-105.52. School crisis kits.**

43 The Department of Public ~~Instruction-Instruction~~ and the North Carolina Center for Safer  
44 Schools, in consultation with the Department of Public ~~Safety through the North Carolina Center~~  
45 for Safer Schools-Safety, may develop and adopt policies on the placement of school crisis kits  
46 in schools and on the contents of those kits. The kits should include, at a minimum, basic first-aid  
47 supplies, communications devices, and other items recommended by the International  
48 Association of Chiefs of Police.

49 The principal of each school, in coordination with the law enforcement agencies that are part  
50 of the local board of education's School Risk Management Plan, may place one or more crisis  
51 kits at appropriate locations in the school."

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**PART III. APPROPRIATION**

**SECTION 3.(a)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of Public Instruction the sum of five million dollars (\$5,000,000) for the 2018-2019 fiscal year to support the anonymous safety tip line application implemented by the Department of Public Instruction, Division of School Operations, and the Center for Safer Schools pursuant to G.S. 115C-105.51.

**SECTION 3.(b)** By July 1, 2019, the Department of Public Instruction shall implement a statewide anonymous safety tip line application available to all schools serving grades six or higher in local school administrative units, charter schools, regional schools, and schools operated by the Department of Public Instruction and The University of North Carolina, as required under G.S. 115C-105.51.

**PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

**SECTION 4.** Section 1 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2019, and applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year. The remainder of this act becomes effective July 1, 2018.