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SENATE BILL DRS35346-NHa-192

Short Title: Safe Schools Transparency Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senator Bradley (Primary Sponsor).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
2 AN ACT TO REQUIRE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL THREATS AND  
3 SAFETY PLANS, TO CREATE PENALTIES FOR FAILURE TO NOTIFY PARENTS OF  
4 SCHOOL THREATS, TO REINSTATE THE TASK FORCE FOR SAFER SCHOOLS,  
5 AND TO ESTABLISH THE SCHOOL SAFETY FUND.

6 Whereas, North Carolina schools have faced an increase in threats, including the  
7 recent case in Charlotte, where a suspect was arrested for allegedly threatening to harm students  
8 and staff at multiple schools; and

9 Whereas, parents are not consistently informed about threats to school safety, which  
10 prevents them from taking necessary precautions to protect their children; and

11 Whereas, building on Senate Bill 74 (2023), this act establishes a parent's right to be  
12 notified of any credible threats against their child, their child's school, or the local school district;  
13 and

14 Whereas, schools must transparently communicate with parents and guardians while  
15 ensuring law enforcement can respond effectively to threats; Now, therefore,  
16 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

17  
18 **PART I. REQUIRE PARENTAL NOTIFICATION OF SCHOOL THREATS AND**  
19 **SAFETY PLANS**

20 **SECTION 1.** Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is amended by  
21 adding a new Part to read:

22 "Part 3. School Safety Transparency.

23 **"§ 115C-105.70. Mandatory notification of threats.**

24 (a) Required Notices. – The parent or legal guardian of a student enrolled in a public  
25 school shall be immediately notified of any credible threat that meets any of the following  
26 criteria:

27 (1) Targets the student, including threats of violence and bullying.

28 (2) Targets the student body, faculty, or school campus, including planned attacks  
29 and bomb threats.

30 (3) Involves a student bringing a weapon to school or a student causing other  
31 security risks.

32 (4) Requires law enforcement intervention, including a lockdown or evacuation.

33 (b) Notice Policy. – The governing body of a public school unit shall adopt a policy for  
34 the provision of notices required under this section. At a minimum, the policy shall do the  
35 following:



\* D R S 3 5 3 4 6 - N H A - 1 9 2 \*

- 1           (1) Identify the school employees or administrators responsible for providing the  
2           notices required by this section.
- 3           (2) Define high-level emergency.
- 4           (c) Means of Notice. – Notifications required under this section shall be made by text  
5 message, email, phone call, or posting an update on the school's website. Each notification must  
6 be made through at least two different means. For high-level emergencies, one of the two notices  
7 must be by phone call.
- 8           (d) Notice Contents. – Notifications made pursuant to this section shall include details of  
9 the threat, including actions taken and school response. Updates shall be provided as new  
10 information becomes available.
- 11          (e) Notice Timing. – A school must provide initial notification within one hour of law  
12 enforcement confirmation of a credible threat, unless threat notification interferes with an active  
13 law enforcement investigation in which case notice shall occur one hour after arrest or resolution  
14 of investigation as determined by law enforcement.
- 15 **§ 115C-105.71. Failure to notify.**
- 16          (a) Filing Complaint. – The parent of a student who is enrolled in a public school who  
17 alleges that the student's school failed to notify the parent of a threat as required by  
18 G.S. 115C-77.1 may file a complaint with the Department of Public Instruction.
- 19          (b) Investigation. – Upon receiving a complaint that a school has violated  
20 G.S. 115C-105.70, the Department shall forward the complaint to the Center for Safer Schools,  
21 and the Center for Safer Schools shall conduct an investigation to determine whether a school  
22 abided by the school's notification policy.
- 23          (c) Report. – No later than 60 days from the date the Center for Safer Schools receives  
24 the complaint, the Center shall report the findings of the investigation to the Superintendent of  
25 Public Instruction and the State Board of Education. The State Board shall schedule consideration  
26 of the report no later than the next regular meeting occurring more than five days after submission  
27 of the report.
- 28          (d) State Board Findings; Penalty. – If the State Board of Education, by a majority vote,  
29 finds that a school has not complied with the notice requirements of G.S. 115C-105.70, the State  
30 Board shall instruct the Department to reduce the public school unit's central office  
31 administration allotment by up to five thousand dollars (\$5,000) and transfer the funds to the  
32 School Safety Fund.
- 33          (e) Repeated Failure to Notify. – If the State Board of Education finds that a school has  
34 failed to comply with the notice requirements of G.S. 115C-105.70 for more than one threat, then  
35 the State Board may do any of the following:
- 36               (1) Issue a corrective action plan for the public school unit.
- 37               (2) Require additional mandatory training for public school unit administrators.
- 38               (3) Withhold additional administrative funds from the central office  
39 administration allotment.
- 40          (f) Administrative Penalties for Administrators. – If during the review of an investigation  
41 of an alleged violation of G.S. 115C-105.70 the State Board of Education finds that specific  
42 school administrators were responsible for the violation, the State Board may do any of the  
43 following for those administrators specifically:
- 44               (1) Issue a written reprimand and performance review.
- 45               (2) Require the administrator to attend additional school safety training.
- 46               (3) If the administrator has been identified as being involved in a violation of  
47 G.S. 115C-105.70 for more than one threat, order the public school unit to end  
48 the employment of the administrator.
- 49          (g) A school administrator that knowingly conceals a credible threat from the parent of a  
50 student that attends the school where the threat occurred may be charged with a Class A1  
51 misdemeanor for endangering students if the threat results in injury.

1        (h) If the State Board takes action under this section, the State Board of Education shall  
 2 report the action to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee within 60 days of the  
 3 action. The General Assembly shall consider, no later than the next session of the General  
 4 Assembly, the future governance of the identified public school unit.

5 **"§ 115C-105.72. Annual school safety transparency report and policies.**

6        (a) The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that each school within the  
 7 school unit publishes an annual school safety report on its website and shall notify parents of the  
 8 availability of the report.

9        (b) The annual school safety report shall include at least the following:

10        (1) The number of threats, lockdowns, and evacuations in the prior year.

11        (2) The status of school security enhancements and equipment, including security  
 12 cameras and Student Resource Officers.

13        (3) A summary of school safety policies and response procedures.

14        (c) The governing body of a public school unit shall ensure that each school within the  
 15 school unit publishes its school safety policies on its website and shall notify parents of the  
 16 availability of the policies.

17        (d) The website shall include the following school safety policies:

18        (1) Emergency response plans, except a school may exclude sensitive security  
 19 details.

20        (2) Student safety policies, including procedures for handling threats.

21        (3) Available mental health and counseling resources for at-risk students.

22 **"§ 115C-105.73. Reporting of annual school safety reports.**

23        (a) The governing body of each public school unit shall provide a copy of the annual  
 24 school safety report required under G.S. 115C-105.72 to the Department of Public Instruction no  
 25 later than December 1 of each year.

26        (b) The Department shall report to the Joint Legislative Education Oversight Committee  
 27 no later than February 1 of each year, including a summary of the reports received pursuant to  
 28 this section and on the rate of compliance with the notification requirements in  
 29 G.S. 115C-105.70."

31 **PART II. REINSTATE TASK FORCE FOR SAFER SCHOOLS**

32        **SECTION 2.(a)** G.S. 115C-105.55 is reenacted as it existed immediately prior to its  
 33 repeal.

34        **SECTION 2.(b)** G.S. 115C-105.56 is reenacted as it existed immediately prior to its  
 35 repeal.

36        **SECTION 2.(c)** G.S. 115C-105.56, as reenacted by this act, reads as rewritten:

37 **"§ 115C-105.56. Task Force for Safer Schools; powers and duties.**

38        The Task Force shall have all of the following duties:

39        (1) To serve as an advisory board to the Center for Safer Schools.

40        (2) To provide guidance and recommendations to the Governor, Superintendent  
 41 of Public Instruction, and the General Assembly to improve statewide policy  
 42 to enhance statewide and local capacities to create safer schools.

43        (3) To encourage interagency collaboration among State and local government  
 44 agencies to achieve effective policies and streamline efforts to create safer  
 45 schools.

46        (4) To Assist the Center for Safer Schools in collecting and disseminating  
 47 information on recommended best practices and community needs related to  
 48 creating safer schools in North Carolina.

49        (5) Other duties as assigned by the State Board of Education.

50        (6) To collect and analyze data to monitor public school unit compliance with  
 51 G.S. 115C-105.70."

1           **SECTION 2.(d)** The members of the Task Force for Safer Schools at the time of its  
2 dissolution shall be offered to return to the Task Force to serve an amount of time equivalent to  
3 the amount of time that remained on that member's term at the time the Task Force was dissolved.  
4 If a member chooses not to return to the Task Force, the resultant vacancy shall be filled by the  
5 original appointing authority.

### 6 7 **PART III. ESTABLISH SCHOOL SAFETY FUND**

8           **SECTION 3.(a)** Part 2 of Article 8C of Chapter 115C of the General Statutes is  
9 amended by adding a new section to read:

#### 10 **"§ 115C-105.69. School Safety Fund.**

11           (a) There is established under the control and direction of the State Board of Education  
12 the School Safety Fund. This fund shall be a nonreverting special revenue fund consisting of any  
13 monies appropriated to it by the General Assembly and any monies credited to it under  
14 G.S. 115C-105.71 for failure to comply with G.S. 115C-105.70.

15           (b) Funds in the School Safety Fund shall be allocated to local school administrative units  
16 on the basis of average daily membership.

17           (c) Public school units may use funds received pursuant to this section for any of the  
18 following purposes:

19           (1) For the public school unit to provide or contract to provide services for  
20 students in crisis, including any of the following:

21           a. Crisis respite services for parents or guardians of an individual student  
22 to prevent more intensive or costly levels of care.

23           b. Training and expanded services for therapeutic foster care families and  
24 licensed child placement agencies that provide services to students  
25 who (i) need support to manage their health, welfare, and safety and  
26 (ii) have any of the following:

27                   1. Cognitive or behavioral problems.

28                   2. Developmental delays.

29                   3. Aggressive behavior.

30           c. Evidence-based therapy services aligned with targeted training for  
31 students and their parents or guardians, including any of the following:

32                   1. Parent-child interaction therapy.

33                   2. Trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy.

34                   3. Dialectical behavior therapy.

35                   4. Child-parent psychotherapy.

36           d. Any other crisis service, including peer-to-peer mentoring, that is  
37 likely to increase school safety.

38           (2) The purchase of safety equipment for school buildings and any training  
39 associated with the use of the safety equipment."

40           **SECTION 3.(b)** There is appropriated from the General Fund to the Department of  
41 Public Instruction the sum of twenty-five million dollars (\$25,000,000) in nonrecurring funds in  
42 the 2026-2027 fiscal year to be allocated to the School Safety Fund, as established by this act.

### 43 44 **PART IV. EFFECTIVE DATE**

45           **SECTION 4.** Section 3 of this act becomes effective July 1, 2026. The remainder of  
46 this act is effective when it becomes law and applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school year.