

2018 -- S 2639

LC005162

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

A N A C T

RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

Introduced By: Senators Gallo, McCaffrey, and Felag

Date Introduced: March 15, 2018

Referred To: Senate Education

It is enacted by the General Assembly as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 16-21-23 of the General Laws in Chapter 16-21 entitled "Health
2 and Safety of Pupils" is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 **16-21-23. School safety teams, school crisis response teams, and school safety**
4 **assessments.**

5 (a) Each school district of each town, city, and regional school department shall conduct a
6 school safety assessment in conjunction with local police, fire, school safety team pursuant to the
7 provisions of this section and any other expert said school department deems necessary. The
8 assessment shall examine the current status of each school building's safety and shall be
9 performed within thirty (30) days of passage of this act, and every three (3) years thereafter. [Each](#)
10 [school district of each town, city, and regional school department shall submit the all hazards site](#)
11 [safety survey report to the Rhode Island school safety committee every three \(3\) years for the](#)
12 [committee's review and recommendations.](#) The assessment shall be completed by November 1 of
13 the year mandated, and by December 31 of that year, the commissioner of elementary and
14 secondary education shall report to the speaker of the house, the senate president, and the
15 governor that such assessments have been completed. Assessments performed within a year of the
16 date of passage of this act shall satisfy this requirement. All meetings regarding the school safety
17 assessment are not subject to the open meetings law pursuant to chapter 46 of title 42, and
18 documents produced including, but not limited to, meeting minutes and the school safety
19 assessment are not subject to the access to public records law pursuant to chapter 2 of title 38.

1 (b) The school committee of each town, city, and regional school department shall review
2 and adopt in executive session a comprehensive school safety plan regarding crisis intervention,
3 emergency response, and management. The plan shall be developed by a school safety team
4 comprised of representatives of the school committee, representatives of student, teacher, and
5 parent organizations, school safety personnel, school administration, and members of local law
6 enforcement, fire, and emergency personnel. Members of the school safety team shall be
7 appointed by the school committee and/or school superintendent of the town, city, or regional
8 school district. In creating the school safety plan, the school safety team(s) shall consult the
9 model school safety plan developed by the department of elementary and secondary education
10 pursuant to § 16-21-23.1.

11 (c) The school crisis response team shall be comprised of those selected school personnel
12 willing to serve as members of a psychological response team to address the psychological and
13 emotional needs of the school community, and may seek mental health resources from the
14 department of elementary and secondary education. Members of the school crisis response team
15 may coordinate mental health services for those students and school employees affected by acts
16 of violence in the schools, using resources available through the department of elementary and
17 secondary education.

18 SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon passage.

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EXPLANATION
BY THE LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL
OF
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RELATING TO EDUCATION -- HEALTH AND SAFETY OF PUPILS

- 1 This act would require that school district safety assessments be provided to the Rhode
- 2 Island school safety committee every three (3) years for review and recommendations.
- 3 This act would take effect upon passage.

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