

BILL SUMMARY

MEASURE: SB 1941

AUTHOR: Blackwell

SUBJECT: School Security

PROVISIONS: Section 1: NEW LAW. Engrossed SB 1941 establishes the Oklahoma School Security Act.

Section 2: AMENDATORY. Allows for school districts to furnish rooms in any school building for use as a polling place at no cost.

Section 3: AMENDATORY. Requires school districts and institutions of higher learning to review and update their disaster and emergency plans annually.

Section 4: AMENDATORY. Requires school districts to conduct at least 3 lockdown drills at each public school. The drills cannot be conducted at the same time of day as a previous drill and no more than 2 drills can be conducted in one semester.

Section 5: AMENDATORY. Includes electronic communication (e.g., cell phone, computer) as a potential harassment mechanism under School Bullying Prevention Act.

Section 6: AMENDATORY. Requires school districts to establish a procedure for the evaluation of all reported incidents of harassment, intimidation, bullying, or threatening behavior. Allows school districts to refer students to mental health counseling under their discipline policy. Allows school districts to request a disclosure of any information concerning students who have received mental health counseling.

Section 7: AMENDATORY. Increases a school's Safe School Committee membership from 6 to 7 members to also include a school official who participates in the evaluation of harassment, intimidation, etc. reports.

Section 8: NEW LAW. Contingent upon funding, the Oklahoma Office of Homeland Security will make grants available to public schools, private schools, and institutions of higher learning for the purpose of encouraging greater emergency preparedness. Grant money will also be made available to local law enforcement, emergency management, disaster relief, and public health entities for the purpose of encouraging their active engagement with public schools, private schools, and institutions of higher education.

Section 9: AMENDATORY. Expands the membership of regional planning and coordination advisory councils for homeland security to include a school district representative and a representative of an institution of higher learning.

EFFECTIVE

DATE: November 1, 2008

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DATE: 3/18/08