

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 55th Legislature (2016)

HOUSE BILL 2455

By: Shelton

AS INTRODUCED

An Act relating to schools; requiring school districts to have a written earthquake protection plan; making the earthquake plan a part of the required emergency management plans; directing school districts to provide certain training; making training contingent upon funding; requiring training to be coordinated and provided or approved by the Oklahoma Department of Emergency Management; requiring school districts to conduct a certain number of earthquake drills annually; allowing for additional drills; stating purpose of the drills; providing for participation; directing the State Board of Education to adopt rules; amending Section 1, Chapter 53, O.S.L. 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 45, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S. Supp. 2015, Section 5-149), which relates to school safety drills; adding earthquake drills; providing for codification; providing an effective date; and declaring an emergency.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA:

SECTION 1. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 5-148.1 of Title 70, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Each school district board of education shall have a written plan and procedures in place for protecting students, faculty,

1 staff, administrators and visitors from earthquakes. The plan shall
2 be made a part of and shall conform with the written emergency
3 management plans adopted by the school district as required by
4 Section 681 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes.

5 B. Contingent upon funding, each school district shall provide
6 training to appropriate faculty, staff and administrators on
7 earthquake-preparedness and response. The training shall be
8 coordinated through and provided or approved by the Oklahoma
9 Department of Emergency Management.

10 C. Each school district shall ensure that a minimum of two
11 earthquake drills are conducted at each public school within the
12 district each school year. Additional drills may be conducted at
13 the discretion of the district. Earthquake drills shall be
14 conducted for the purpose of identifying a safe place to take cover
15 and to teach participants how to react during an earthquake. All
16 students and employees shall participate in the drills, with the
17 extent of student involvement to be determined by the district.

18 D. The State Board of Education shall adopt rules to implement
19 the provisions of this section.

20 SECTION 2. AMENDATORY Section 1, Chapter 53, O.S.L.
21 2013, as amended by Section 1, Chapter 45, O.S.L. 2014 (70 O.S.
22 Supp. 2015, Section 5-149), is amended to read as follows:

23 Section 5-149. A. In addition to the two lockdown drills
24 required pursuant to Section 5-148 of this title and the two

1 earthquake drills required pursuant to Section 1 of this act, all
2 public schools shall conduct a minimum of eight safety drills as
3 follows:

4 1. Two fire drills per school year. Each fire drill shall be
5 conducted within the first fifteen (15) days of each semester. The
6 fire drills shall include the sounding of a distinctive audible
7 signal designated as the fire alarm signal;

8 2. Two intruder drills per school year. Intruder drills are
9 conducted for the purpose of mitigating injuries or deaths by
10 executing a plan as an alternative to the lockdown method. Each
11 intruder drill shall be conducted within the first fifteen (15) days
12 of each semester;

13 3. Two tornado drills per school year with at least one drill
14 being conducted in the months of September and March; and

15 4. The principal and superintendent of a public school district
16 shall utilize the remaining required safety drills in any manner
17 provided in this section or Section 5-148 of this title or by
18 developing a drill that is consistent with the risks assessed for
19 the appropriate facility or any recommendations submitted by the
20 Safe School Committee as authorized pursuant to Section 24-100.5 of
21 this title or any assisting fire or law enforcement department.

22 B. It shall be the duty of the principal, under the direction
23 of the superintendent of the school district, to conform to the
24 written plans and procedures adopted by the district as required by

1 Section 681 of Title 63 of the Oklahoma Statutes. All students and
2 teachers at the public schools shall participate; provided, however,
3 that the extent of student involvement required in paragraph 2 of
4 subsection A of this section shall be determined by the district.

5 C. Each public school district shall document each fire drill
6 in writing by public school site. The records for each fire drill
7 shall be preserved for at least three (3) years and made available
8 to the State Fire Marshal or the marshal's agent upon request. In
9 addition to the fire drill documentation provided in this
10 subsection, the school district shall document all other safety
11 drills in writing and by school site with a copy of the report
12 remaining at the school, a copy filed with the district
13 administrative office and a copy with the Institute for School
14 Security Resources as created by the Oklahoma Office of Homeland
15 Security.

16 SECTION 3. This act shall become effective July 1, 2016.

17 SECTION 4. It being immediately necessary for the preservation
18 of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is hereby
19 declared to exist, by reason whereof this act shall take effect and
20 be in full force from and after its passage and approval.

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