

LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA  
ONE HUNDRED SIXTH LEGISLATURE  
SECOND SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE BILL 1156**

Introduced by Vargas, 7; Lindstrom, 18.

Read first time January 22, 2020

Committee:

1 A BILL FOR AN ACT relating to schools; to define terms; to require  
2 development and implementation of a statewide school panic button  
3 program; to provide powers and duties; and to state intent regarding  
4 appropriations.

5 Be it enacted by the people of the State of Nebraska,

1           Section 1. (1) For purposes of this section:

2           (a) Department means the State Department of Education;

3           (b) Key public safety personnel means first responders, including  
4 the local police department, fire department, and emergency medical  
5 services;

6           (c) 911 call has the definition found in section 86-1017;

7           (d) 911 service system has the definition found in section 86-1019;

8           (e) Program means the statewide school panic button program  
9 developed under this section;

10          (f) Public safety answering point has the definition found in  
11 section 86-1022;

12          (g) Push notification means an automated text message sent by an  
13 application on a mobile telephone to a user when the application is not  
14 open;

15          (h) School means a public elementary or secondary school; and

16          (i) Short message service means a text messaging service component  
17 of most telephone, Internet, and mobile device systems that uses  
18 standardized communication protocols to enable mobile devices to exchange  
19 short text messages.

20          (2)(a) By September 30, 2020, the department shall develop a  
21 statewide school panic button program available to schools in Nebraska.  
22 At a minimum, the department shall complete the following activities when  
23 developing the program:

24          (i) Secure a statewide contract with one or more technology  
25 providers necessary to operate the program;

26          (ii) If available through the Department of Administrative Services,  
27 use an existing state contract to expedite and procure the program; and

28          (iii) Assume the cost of having the technology implemented in all  
29 schools.

30          (b) The vendor shall have a demonstrated track record of deploying  
31 technology for a school panic button program on a statewide basis with at

1 least one successful statewide implementation covering a minimum of one  
2 thousand public schools.

3 (c) The vendor shall also have demonstrated success in the State of  
4 Nebraska by identifying school districts that are participating in a  
5 panic button program as of the effective date of this act or that have  
6 previously participated in a panic button program.

7 (3) The technology purchased for the program shall meet the  
8 following standards:

9 (a) The technology must be usable through a mobile telephone  
10 application-based system; and

11 (b) The mobile telephone application-based system must be able to be  
12 optionally integrated with the public safety answering point and to do  
13 the following:

14 (i) Place a standard voice call to 911;

15 (ii) Communicate with and allow the 911 service system to send  
16 followup messages;

17 (iii) Send short message service text messages, email, and push  
18 notifications to authorized users onsite at the school, including  
19 teachers and staff at the school and key public safety personnel;

20 (iv) Actively monitor all 911 calls processed by the public safety  
21 answering point, including standard landline, mobile, and panic-button-  
22 application calls;

23 (v) Allow the 911 service system or public safety officials to  
24 convert a standard 911 call made from a landline or mobile telephone  
25 processed by the 911 service system to a panic-button-application event  
26 from within the 911 service system, including intake, dispatch, and  
27 supervisory workflows of the 911 service system;

28 (vi) Allow the 911 service system or public safety officials to  
29 initiate panic-button-application events and to initiate a communication  
30 to declare a panic-button-application event outside of a 911 call to  
31 facilitate communications and coordination before, during, and after an

1 event; and

2 (vii) Automatically present information from a school to the 911  
3 call taker, including floor plans and building information, without  
4 further action by the 911 call taker when a 911 call from a landline or  
5 mobile phone or panic-button-application activation occurs.

6 (4) The mobile telephone application-based system shall contain, at  
7 least, the following event categories:

8 (a) Active Assailant/Shooter;

9 (b) Medical Emergency;

10 (c) Police;

11 (d) Fire; and

12 (e) Other 911.

13 (5) The mobile telephone application-based system shall allow for  
14 the geo-fencing of a school campus that generates a panic button  
15 notification inside the school property and a regular 911 call outside  
16 the school property.

17 (6) The State Department of Education shall ensure that the mobile  
18 telephone application-based system selected for the program is certified  
19 by the United States Department of Homeland Security under the federal  
20 Support Anti-Terrorism by Fostering Effective Technologies Act of 2002.

21 (7) It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate two million  
22 dollars for fiscal year 2020-21 to the State Department of Education for  
23 the purpose of implementing this section.