

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE BILL

No. 1422 Session of  
2019

---

INTRODUCED BY ORTITAY, BERNSTINE, READSHAW, STRUZZI, MIHALEK,  
KAIL AND PUSKARIC, MAY 7, 2019

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION, MAY 7, 2019

---

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), entitled "An  
2 act relating to the public school system, including certain  
3 provisions applicable as well to private and parochial  
4 schools; amending, revising, consolidating and changing the  
5 laws relating thereto," providing for school grounds self-  
6 defense.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. The act of March 10, 1949 (P.L.30, No.14), known  
10 as the Public School Code of 1949, is amended by adding an  
11 article to read:

12 ARTICLE XIII-E

13 SCHOOL GROUNDS SELF-DEFENSE

14 Section 1301-E. Definitions.

15 The following words and phrases when used in this article  
16 shall have the meanings given to them in this section unless the  
17 context clearly indicates otherwise:

18 "Account." The School Grounds Self-Defense Training Account  
19 established under section 1304-E.

20 "Committee." The School Safety and Security Committee

1 established under section 1302-B.

2 "Commission." The Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and  
3 Delinquency.

4 "Department." The Department of Education of the  
5 Commonwealth.

6 "Program." The School Grounds Self-Defense Training Program  
7 established under section 1302-E.

8 "Training." Self-defense training, which is provided by a  
9 designated business firm.

10 Section 1302-E. School Grounds Self-Defense Training Program.

11 (a) Establishment.--The School Grounds Self-Defense Training  
12 Program is established within the commission to provide violent  
13 intruder and active shooter training for professional employees,  
14 temporary professional employees, nonprofessional employees and  
15 administrators employed by a school district.

16 (b) Designation of trainers.--Not later than November 1,  
17 2019, in consultation with the department, the commission shall:

18 (1) Designate business firms to serve as school grounds  
19 self-defense trainers for purposes of the program. Each  
20 designated business firm must:

21 (i) currently operate training that provides  
22 realistic and applicable techniques to counter an active  
23 shooter or violent intruder;

24 (ii) provide a blended learning program;

25 (iii) have experience training school district  
26 personnel;

27 (iv) have personnel with background in the military,  
28 in law enforcement and as school resource officers as  
29 defined in section 1301-C; and

30 (v) demonstrate an ability to provide interactive

1 violent intruder training and active shooter training to  
2 school entities.

3 (2) Post notice of the designation under paragraph (1)  
4 on the commission's publicly accessible Internet website.

5 (c) Training.--

6 (1) A designated business firm under subsection (b)  
7 shall be the exclusive designated provider of training under  
8 the program.

9 (2) Training shall include the following:

10 (i) An initial walk-through evaluation and  
11 vulnerability assessment.

12 (ii) Computer-based training.

13 (iii) Hands-on training, including drills and mock  
14 events.

15 (3) Training may occur during in-service days or before  
16 or after the school day.

17 (4) Training may be used to fulfill continuing  
18 professional education requirements under section 1205.2.

19 Section 1303-E. Simulation drills.

20 After the development of the program under section 1302-E,  
21 each school district shall provide notification to the committee  
22 with the following information:

23 (1) Advance explanation of the format of a simulation  
24 drill under the program, including notice that certain  
25 features of the drill may be kept confidential.

26 (2) Any role that a school employee may be expected to  
27 fulfill during a simulation drill, such as a mock perpetrator  
28 or victim.

29 (3) The ability of a school employee to opt out of  
30 active participation in a simulation drill as a mock

1 perpetrator or victim, without explaining the reason.

2 (4) The ability of a school employee to opt out of  
3 active participation in any aspect of a simulation drill,  
4 without explaining the reason, and the ability to receive  
5 less intense, alternative training.

6 (5) The ability of a school employee to cease  
7 participation after a simulation drill has been initiated or  
8 to enter into a safe zone where the school employee may go  
9 for respite during the drill.

10 Section 1304-E. School Grounds Self-Defense Training Account.

11 (a) Establishment.--The School Grounds Self-Defense Training  
12 Account is established as an interest-bearing restricted account  
13 in the General Fund.

14 (b) Purpose.--

15 (1) Money in the account, including interest and other  
16 earnings, is appropriated to the committee and shall only be  
17 used for grants under this article.

18 (2) Money in the account may not, by administrative  
19 action, be transferred or diverted for a purpose other than  
20 the award of grants under this article.

21 (c) Sources of funding.--Money in the account shall include,  
22 but not be limited to, appropriations and transfers from the  
23 General Fund, special funds, Federal funds and other sources of  
24 revenue made available to the account.

25 (d) Deposits.--

26 (1) Deposits into the account shall include any  
27 appropriations, contributions, transfers and money received  
28 by the commission to fulfill the purposes of this article.

29 (2) No administrative action shall prevent the deposit  
30 of money into the account in the fiscal year in which the

1 money is received.

2 (e) Transfer.--Not later than November 1, 2019, the sum of  
3 \$5,000,000, as a result of the basic education funding  
4 allocation, shall be transferred from the General Fund to the  
5 account.

6 (f) Time limitation.--Money from the account shall be  
7 allocated for the purpose of making grants under this section  
8 not later than October 31, 2020.

9 Section 1305-B. Grants.

10 (a) General duties of committee.--The committee shall  
11 perform all functions related to the direct approval,  
12 disbursement and administration of grants under the program.

13 (b) Application form.--Not later than November 1, 2019, the  
14 committee shall:

15 (1) Develop an application form for school districts  
16 that seek to receive a grant for training under the program.  
17 The application shall include the following:

18 (i) The number of school buildings within the school  
19 district that will receive training under the program.

20 (ii) A certification that the grant will be used by  
21 the school district to pay the costs associated with  
22 training under the program.

23 (iii) Other information that the committee requires  
24 to facilitate the consideration and award of grants under  
25 this article.

26 (2) Post the application form under paragraph (1) on the  
27 committee's publicly accessible Internet website.

28 (c) Limitation.--A school district may submit only one  
29 application for a grant during the duration of the program.

30 (d) Approval process.--

1           (1) Upon reviewing an application for a grant under this  
2 article, the committee shall determine whether a school  
3 district has made a meritorious application and shall award a  
4 grant to the school district of up to \$5,000 for each school  
5 building in the school district.

6           (2) The committee shall notify each school district  
7 applicant of the approval or denial of a grant award. The  
8 following shall apply:

9           (i) A notice of approval shall include the amount of  
10 the grant specified by school building.

11           (ii) A notice of denial shall specify the reasons  
12 for the denial.

13           (e) Purpose of grant.--A grant under this section may only  
14 be used to pay the costs associated with training under the  
15 program.

16           (f) Pro rata award of grants.--If insufficient money is  
17 appropriated or money is otherwise unavailable to cover the  
18 entire cost of the program for all school districts with  
19 approved applications, grant allocations shall be made on a pro  
20 rata basis.

21 Section 1306-E. Training requirements.

22           (a) Coordination.--As soon as practicable after a school  
23 district receives notice that the school district's application  
24 for a grant under section 1305-E has been approved, the school  
25 district shall coordinate with a designated business firm to  
26 schedule the training.

27           (b) Uncompleted training.--If training is not completed  
28 within one year of the notice of the approved application, the  
29 approval shall be rescinded, and any grant money provided to the  
30 school district for that uncompleted training shall be returned

1 to the account.

2 Section 1307-E. Effect of grant.

3 A grant that is awarded through the program shall be used to  
4 supplement and not supplant existing school district spending on  
5 school safety and security.

6 Section 1308-E. Reporting.

7 (a) Time for submission.--Not later than August 31, 2021,  
8 the committee shall submit a written report concerning the  
9 program.

10 (b) Recipients.--The report under this section shall be  
11 submitted to the following:

12 (1) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
13 Appropriations Committee of the Senate.

14 (2) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
15 Appropriations Committee of the House of Representatives.

16 (3) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
17 Education Committee of the Senate.

18 (4) The chairperson and minority chairperson of the  
19 Education Committee of the House of Representatives.

20 (c) Contents.--The report under this section shall include,  
21 but not be limited to, all of the following:

22 (1) The number of participating school districts,  
23 including the number and description of school buildings  
24 within the school district that participated in the program  
25 and received a grant under this article.

26 (2) The number of professional employees, temporary  
27 professional employees, nonprofessional employees and  
28 administrators participating in the program, including the  
29 number of individuals who:

30 (i) opted out of active participation in some or all

1 of a simulation drill;

2 (ii) ceased participation after a simulation drill  
3 has been initiated; or

4 (iii) entered into a safe zone for respite during  
5 the simulation drill.

6 (3) An assessment of the success of the program.

7 (4) Recommendations regarding the possible extension and  
8 expansion of the program, including a proposed timeline for  
9 any potential expansion.

10 Section 1309-E. Guidelines.

11 The commission shall develop guidelines as necessary to  
12 implement the provisions of this article.

13 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.