

# State of South Dakota

EIGHTY-NINTH SESSION  
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2014

578V0119

## HOUSE BILL NO. 1124

Introduced by: Representatives Johns, Ring, Romkema, Sly, Stevens, and Tulson and  
Senators Ewing, Holien, Jones (Chuck), Kirkeby, Krebs, Lucas, Monroe, and  
Tieszen

1 FOR AN ACT ENTITLED, An Act to create the South Dakota school safety fund to assist  
2 certain school districts in enhancing school safety, and to make an appropriation therefor.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF SOUTH DAKOTA:

4 Section 1. There is hereby created within the state treasury the South Dakota school safety  
5 fund. The fund shall be administered by the secretary of education. All moneys in the fund shall  
6 be used to provide matching funds to school districts to allow them to enhance school safety by  
7 hiring or retaining school resource officers, by providing training and technical assistance to  
8 school personnel, facility security enhancements, or by hiring additional school counselors,  
9 school psychologists, or other mental health professionals. Interest earned on the fund shall be  
10 deposited into the fund.

11 Section 2. The Department of Education may accept and expend for the purposes of this Act  
12 any funds obtained for the school safety fund from federal sources, gifts, contributions, or any  
13 other source if such acceptance and expenditure is approved in accordance with § 4-8B-10.

14 Section 3. There is hereby appropriated from the general fund the sum of five million dollars



1 (\$5,000,000), or so much thereof as may be necessary, to the South Dakota school safety fund  
2 for distribution to school districts as follows:

3 (1) One million dollars shall be distributed to eligible school districts for the purpose of  
4 hiring or retaining school resource officers;

5 (2) Two million dollars shall be distributed to eligible school districts for the purpose of  
6 acquiring training and technical assistance or for facility security enhancements, or  
7 both, to help ensure the safety of students; and

8 (3) One million dollars shall be distributed to eligible school districts for the purpose of  
9 hiring additional school counselors, school psychologists, or other mental health  
10 professionals if the school districts demonstrate a need for the additional personnel  
11 as determined by the secretary of education.

12 Section 4. The secretary of education shall approve vouchers and the state auditor shall draw  
13 warrants to pay expenditures authorized by this Act.

14 Section 5. In order to be eligible to receive matching funds from the school safety fund  
15 established in section 1 of this Act, a school district shall have an emergency response plan and  
16 shall work with school resource officers or local law enforcement, or both, to develop or update  
17 a comprehensive threat assessment for each school site within the school district.

18 Section 6. Any school district that meets the eligibility requirements in section 5 of this Act  
19 may apply for funds from the school safety fund, and any funds received by a school district  
20 from the school safety fund shall be matched by the school district.

21 Section 7. There is hereby created the School Safety Oversight Committee within the  
22 Department of Education. The committee shall consist of five members appointed by the Board  
23 of Education. The committee shall meet at the call of the secretary of education to review and  
24 act upon applications from school districts seeking financial assistance from the school safety

1 fund. When considering whether to approve an application, the committee shall use the criteria  
2 established pursuant to section 8 of this Act.

3 Section 8. The Board of Education shall promulgate rules pursuant to chapter 1-26 to  
4 establish the criteria the School Safety Oversight Committee will consider in awarding matching  
5 funds from the South Dakota school safety fund to school districts, to establish application  
6 procedures and timelines that eligible school districts will follow when applying for matching  
7 funds from the school safety fund, and to establish the procedures that will be used to distribute  
8 matching funds from the school safety fund to the receiving school districts.