

HOUSE BILL 7042

By Barrett

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 10, Chapter 7; Title 49 and Chapter 367 of the Public Acts of 2023, relative to school safety.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 49, Chapter 6, Part 8, is amended by adding the following as a new section:

(a) The department of safety shall conduct an audit of each public school in this state that serves students in any of the grades pre-kindergarten through twelve (pre-K-12) to assess the school's compliance with all applicable safety laws, rules, and policies that are designed to ensure the safety of students, staff, and visitors in the event of an active threat or active shooter situation on school premises, and to identify areas of noncompliance, any safety issues or concerns, and to recommend any improvements or changes to the school's security measures. Each LEA and public charter school shall allow the department full access to all school buildings, school premises, safety plans, and safety equipment while the department is conducting the audit.

(b) The department shall submit a report of each audit conducted pursuant to this section to the general assembly no later than ninety (90) days after the department completes the audit. The department shall conduct an initial audit by November 1, 2025. The department shall conduct an audit of each public school no less than once every five (5) years from the date of the school's most recent audit.

(c) In conducting the audits and reporting the results of the audits, the department shall comply with the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)

(20 U.S.C. 1232g); § 10-7-504; the Data Accessibility, Transparency, and Accountability Act, compiled in chapter 1, part 7 of this title; and all other relevant privacy laws.

SECTION 2. This act takes effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.