

AMENDMENTS TO LB322

Introduced by Education.

1 1. Strike the original sections and insert the following new
2 sections:

3 Section 1. Sections 1 to 6 of this act shall be known and may be
4 cited as the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

5 Sec. 2. For purposes of the School Safety and Security Reporting
6 System Act:

7 (1) Concerning behavior includes, but is not limited to, suicide,
8 bullying, stalking behavior, cyber or electronic harassment, bomb threat,
9 family violence, physical or sexual abuse, threat to property, behavior
10 indicative of terrorism, assault or attack, inappropriate weapons use,
11 concern about mental health or substance use, sexual exploitation or
12 predation, and any direct or indirect threatening statement;

13 (2) Department means the State Department of Education or the state
14 school security director;

15 (3) Mental health professional means a school psychologist, social
16 worker, or licensed mental health professional;

17 (4) Report line staff means the staff of the Safe2HelpNE report line
18 as provided in subsection (4) of section 3 of this act;

19 (5) Safe2HelpNE report line means the reporting system established
20 pursuant to section 3 of this act;

21 (6) Threat assessment means an evidence-based process to reduce
22 potential risks and incidents of violence resulting in harm to one or
23 more persons or school property; and

24 (7) Threat assessment team means a school-based team of at least
25 five members who have completed the training required pursuant to section
26 4 of this act and includes, but is not limited to, the principal or
27 principal's designee, a mental health professional, and a member of the

1 school staff.

2 Sec. 3. (1) The department shall establish the Safe2HelpNE report
3 line as a statewide, anonymous reporting system to support threat
4 assessment teams and reduce potential risks and incidents of violence
5 resulting in harm to self, others, or school property.

6 (2) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be multi-modal to allow
7 students, school staff, parents, and community members to anonymously
8 report concerns and information about concerning behavior or possible
9 harm to persons or property by telephone call, mobile application, web
10 site, or email without charge. The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be
11 available to any public or nonpublic school that has a threat assessment
12 team and that maintains a current list of the contact information for at
13 least five team members designated to receive alerts from staff at any
14 time of the day or night.

15 (3) Except as otherwise required by law, the identity of any
16 individual who contacts the Safe2HelpNE report line shall be confidential
17 and shall not be revealed.

18 (4) The Safe2HelpNE report line shall be staffed seven days per week
19 and twenty-four hours per day by professionals trained to receive
20 concerns, use de-escalation techniques to minimize law enforcement
21 involvement, and alert the appropriate threat assessment team for review,
22 assessment, and action to protect persons and property. The report line
23 staff shall also be trained in threat assessment and management
24 processes, suicide prevention, recognizing mental illness and emotional
25 disturbance, and applicable confidentiality and privacy laws. The report
26 line staff shall have access to clinical consultation and support seven
27 days per week and twenty-four hours per day from a licensed mental health
28 professional.

29 (5) The report line staff shall immediately alert the appropriate
30 threat assessment team of any concern directly regarding a student,
31 school staff member, or school property or that is likely to impact a

1 student, school staff member, or school property. If there is an
2 immediate life safety concern, emergency services shall be contacted
3 prior to any threat assessment team. Each alert shall be assessed by the
4 threat assessment team receiving such alert.

5 (6) The department shall track and evaluate the effectiveness and
6 usage of the Safe2HelpNE report line. The report line staff shall report
7 the number of calls received, disposition of calls, referrals made to
8 threat assessment teams, and other metrics as determined by and in the
9 manner prescribed by the department.

10 (7) Any information or material in the possession of the threat
11 assessment team shall remain separate from educational records and shall
12 be considered security records.

13 Sec. 4. The department shall provide training for the members of
14 any threat assessment team serving a public or nonpublic school. Such
15 training shall provide the knowledge and skill to allow threat assessment
16 teams to work collaboratively to conduct threat assessments, engage in
17 crisis intervention, increase awareness of concerning behavior among
18 school staff, students, and the public, and interrupt violence in the
19 planning stage to thwart potential harm to persons and property.

20 Sec. 5. It is the intent of the Legislature to appropriate money
21 from the General Fund for the Safe2HelpNE report line for ten years. At
22 the end of the ten years, the department shall electronically report
23 cost-benefit data and recommendations regarding the continued viability
24 of the Safe2HelpNE report line to the Education Committee of the
25 Legislature.

26 Sec. 6. The department may adopt and promulgate rules and
27 regulations to carry out the School Safety and Security Reporting System
28 Act.

29 Sec. 7. Section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative Supplement,
30 2020, is amended to read:

31 79-2,144 The state school security director appointed pursuant to

1 section 79-2,143 shall be responsible for providing leadership and
2 support for safety and security for the public schools. Duties of the
3 director include, but are not limited to:

4 (1) Collecting safety and security plans, required pursuant to rules
5 and regulations of the State Department of Education relating to
6 accreditation of schools, and other school security information from each
7 school system in Nebraska. School districts shall provide the state
8 school security director with the safety and security plans of the school
9 district and any other security information requested by the director,
10 but any plans or information submitted by a school district may be
11 withheld by the department pursuant to subdivision (8) of section
12 84-712.05;

13 (2) Recommending minimum standards for school security on or before
14 January 1, 2016, to the State Board of Education;

15 (3) Conducting an assessment of the security of each public school
16 building, which assessment shall be completed by August 31, 2019;

17 (4) Identifying deficiencies in school security based on the minimum
18 standards adopted by the State Board of Education and making
19 recommendations to school boards for remedying such deficiencies;

20 (5) Establishing security awareness and preparedness tools and
21 training programs for public school staff;

22 (6) Establishing research-based model instructional programs for
23 staff, students, and parents to address the underlying causes for violent
24 attacks on schools;

25 (7) Overseeing suicide awareness and prevention training in public
26 schools pursuant to section 79-2,146;

27 (8) Establishing tornado preparedness standards which shall include,
28 but not be limited to, ensuring that every school conducts at least two
29 tornado drills per year;

30 (9) Responding to inquiries and requests for assistance relating to
31 school security from private, denominational, and parochial schools;~~and~~

1 (10) Recommending curricular and extracurricular materials to assist
2 school districts in preventing and responding to cyberbullying and
3 digital citizenship issues; and -

4 (11) Carrying out the department's responsibilities under the School
5 Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

6 Sec. 8. This act becomes operative on July 1, 2021.

7 Sec. 9. Original section 79-2,144, Revised Statutes Cumulative
8 Supplement, 2020, is repealed.

9 Sec. 10. Since an emergency exists, this act takes effect when
10 passed and approved according to law.