

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the safety of students; amending s.
3 30.15, F.S.; revising the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron
4 Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to
5 include child care facilities; providing that child
6 care facilities must cover the costs of participating
7 in the program; authorizing sheriffs to waive such
8 costs; revising reporting requirements; deleting
9 obsolete language; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.;
10 requiring specified school safety requirements to be
11 implemented during specified time periods; revising
12 the requirements for certain gates and campus access
13 points to be open or unlocked; providing that certain
14 instructional spaces for career and technical
15 education are exempt from specified requirements under
16 certain circumstances; providing that certain
17 provisions apply to common areas on school campuses;
18 providing exemptions from certain requirements for
19 doors, gates, and campus access points; providing
20 requirements for locked barriers between classrooms
21 and open school campuses; requiring certain protocols
22 and policies to be provided to substitute teachers;
23 providing an effective date.

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25 Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section 30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

(1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or by deputy, shall:

(k) Assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program, the sheriff in that county shall establish a guardian program to provide training, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, or child care facility employees, either directly or through a contract with another sheriff's office that has established a guardian program.

b. A charter school governing board in a school district

51 that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian
52 program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a
53 guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school
54 employees. If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter
55 school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has
56 established a guardian program to provide such training. The
57 charter school governing board must notify the superintendent
58 and the sheriff in the charter school's county of the contract
59 prior to its execution.

60 c. A private school or child care facility in a school
61 district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a
62 guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of
63 the private school or child care facility establish a guardian
64 program for the purpose of training private school or child care
65 facility employees. If the county sheriff denies the request,
66 the private school or child care facility may contract with a
67 sheriff from another county who has established a guardian
68 program to provide such training. The private school or child
69 care facility must notify the sheriff in the private school's or
70 child care facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from
71 another county before its execution. The private school or child
72 care facility is responsible for all training and screening-
73 related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff
74 providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a
75 private school or child care facility are not commingled with

76 any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement
77 for screening-related and training-related costs of any school
78 district or charter school employee.

79 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.
80 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff
81 providing such training shall adhere to the course of
82 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This
83 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing
84 additional training. A school guardian who has completed the
85 training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be
86 required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant
87 to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year
88 break in his or her appointment as a guardian.

89 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to
90 subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees
91 will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related
92 costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each
93 school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

94 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-
95 related costs for a private school or child care facility for a
96 school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-
97 subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have
98 been waived by the sheriff.

99 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under
100 the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission,

101 who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who
102 is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian may
103 be certified as a school guardian by the sheriff without
104 completing the training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b.
105 However, a person certified as a school guardian under this sub-
106 subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-subparagraphs
107 2.c.-e.

108 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with
109 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding
110 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as
111 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,
112 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), who:

113 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06.

114 b. Complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12
115 hours of training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and
116 skills necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on
117 school premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm
118 safety and proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice
119 Standards and Training Commission-certified instructors, which
120 must include:

121 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the
122 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
123 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least
124 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
125 associated with academy training. Program participants must

126 | achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.
127 | (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.
128 | (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
129 | using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.
130 | (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
131 | assailant scenarios.
132 | (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.
133 | (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.
134 | c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
135 | psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
136 | Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
137 | evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
138 | Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
139 | mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
140 | paragraph.
141 | d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
142 | random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
143 | 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.
144 | e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
145 | inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual
146 | basis.
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148 | The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the
149 | training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.
150 | shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet

151 the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the
152 sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and
153 equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,
154 inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian
155 certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this
156 paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3)
157 only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district
158 superintendent, charter school principal, ~~or~~ private school head
159 of school, or child care facility owner or operator.

160 3.a.~~(I)~~ Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian
161 certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report
162 to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth,
163 and certification date of the school guardian.

164 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a~~
165 ~~school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law~~
166 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of~~
167 ~~each school guardian who received a certificate from the~~
168 ~~sheriff.~~

169 b.~~(I)~~ By February 1 and September 1 of each school year,
170 each school district, charter school, ~~and~~ private school, and
171 child care facility must report to the Department of Law
172 Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of
173 each person appointed as a school guardian. The school district,
174 charter school, ~~and~~ private school, and child care facility must
175 also report to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each

176 school guardian separates from his or her appointment as a
177 school guardian.

178 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter~~
179 ~~school, and private school must report to the Department of Law~~
180 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end-of-~~
181 ~~appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a~~
182 ~~school guardian.~~

183 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list
184 of each person appointed as a school guardian in the state. The
185 list must include the name and certification date of each school
186 guardian and the date the person was appointed as a school
187 guardian, including the name of the school district, charter
188 school, ~~or private school~~, or child care facility in which the
189 school guardian is appointed, any information provided pursuant
190 to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date such person
191 separated from his or her appointment as a school guardian. The
192 Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any
193 person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph
194 1.d.

195 d. Each sheriff must report on a quarterly basis to the
196 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school
197 guardian trainings, including the dates of the training, the
198 training locations, a contact person to register for the
199 training, and the class capacity. The Department of Law
200 Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming

201 school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement
202 must update such list quarterly.

203 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required
204 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the
205 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the
206 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed
207 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to
208 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

209 f. A school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school,
210 or child care facility that fails to report the information
211 required by this subparagraph may not operate a school guardian
212 program for the following school year, unless the school
213 district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, or child care
214 facility has submitted the required information.

215 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the
216 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of
217 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, ~~or~~
218 private school, or child care facility that has not complied
219 with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

220 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to
221 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including
222 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to
223 uniquely identify each school guardian reported.

224 **Section 2. Paragraph (h) is added to subsection (6) of**
225 **section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, and paragraph (f) of that**

226 **subsection is amended, to read:**

227 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
 228 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
 229 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
 230 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
 231 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
 232 welfare of students, including:

233 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district
 234 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures
 235 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the
 236 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior
 237 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

238 (f) School safety requirements.—~~By August 1, 2024,~~ Each
 239 school district and charter school governing board shall comply
 240 with the following school safety requirements, which,
 241 notwithstanding any other requirements under this paragraph,
 242 must be enforced, at a minimum, from 30 minutes before the
 243 school start time until 30 minutes after the end of the school
 244 day:

245 1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress
 246 to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked
 247 when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point
 248 may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during
 249 normal school hours, unless:

250 a. Attended or actively staffed by a person when students

251 are on campus;

252 b. The use is in accordance with a shared use agreement
253 pursuant to s. 1013.101; ~~or~~

254 c. Another closed or locked gate or access point separates
255 the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

256 ~~d.e.~~ The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,
257 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
258 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or
259 other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon
260 other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a
261 compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such
262 determination is appropriate.

263 2.a. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
264 must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students,
265 except between class periods when students are moving between
266 classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or
267 other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for
268 any reason other than between class periods when students are
269 moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the
270 door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at
271 the door.

272 b. Instructional spaces for career and technical education
273 which are designed as open areas for which compliance with the
274 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. affects the health and
275 safety of students may be exempted from compliance with that

276 sub-subparagraph by the school safety specialist. To be exempt,
277 the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must
278 document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal
279 maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional
280 space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts
281 to student health and safety and the presence of other safety
282 measures at the school that prevent egress from the
283 instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or
284 instructional spaces.

285 c. Common areas on a school campus, including, but not
286 limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers, which
287 are used for instructional time or student testing must meet the
288 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. only when such areas are
289 being used for instructional time or student testing.

290 3. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points
291 that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall
292 remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress,
293 unless:

294 a. A person is actively entering or exiting the door,
295 gate, or other access point;

296 b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by
297 school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

298 c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,
299 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
300 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open

301 and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to
302 this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school.
303 There must be at least one locked barrier between classrooms and
304 instructional spaces and open school campus.

305
306 The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s.
307 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All
308 campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be
309 electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to
310 allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school
311 personnel.

312 4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
313 must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each
314 classroom or other instructional space where students must
315 shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified
316 of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year.
317 If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the
318 safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the
319 school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document
320 such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
321 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying
322 where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall
323 assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the
324 inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

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326 Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must
327 report the violation to the school principal. The school
328 principal must report the violation to the school safety
329 specialist no later than the next business day after receiving
330 such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the
331 school principal or charter school administrator, the report
332 must be made directly to the district school superintendent or
333 charter school governing board, as applicable.

334 (h) Provision of school safety protocols and policies.—
335 Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety
336 protocols and policies before beginning his or her first day of
337 substitute teaching at a school.

338 **Section 3.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.