SENATE FILE NO. SF0064

School safety and security.
Sponsored by: Joint Education Interim Committee

A BILL

for

AN ACT relating to student and school safety and security; modifying duties of the state superintendent of public instruction and school district boards of trustees; creating a fine relating to unlawfully passing a school bus and amending related provisions; amending school safety drill requirements; providing an appropriation; and providing for an effective date.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Wyoming:

Section 1. W.S. 21-2-202(a) by creating a new paragraph (xxxviii), 21-3-110(a) by creating new paragraphs (xxxvii) and (xxxviii), 21-3-131(b)(x), 31-5-507 by creating new subsections (e) and (f) and 35-9-505(b) are amended to read:

(a) In addition to any other duties assigned by law, the state superintendent shall:

(xxxviii) In consultation with the office of homeland security, the attorney general's office, the state fire marshal and the state construction department, create model school safety and security guidelines to assist school districts in developing comprehensive safety and security plans, as required by W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxxvii).

21-3-110. Duties of boards of trustees.

(a) The board of trustees in each school district shall:

(xxxvii) Develop and annually review a comprehensive safety and security plan for all school district facilities to maximize safety of students and staff. The school district may use any portion of department of education school safety and security guidelines in developing its own plan. The plan shall be submitted to the department of education during the school district's accreditation
review. The plan is not a public record available for public
inspection under the Public Records Act, W.S. 16-4-201 et
seq. The plan shall, at a minimum, include the following
elements:

(A) Intervention techniques and strategies
to use with students who demonstrate signs of having the
potential to engage in violent behavior, including
coordination with mental health services and social services;

(B) Publicization to all school district
staff and students regarding the state's student and school
safety call center, as authorized in W.S. 9-1-603(a)(ix);

(C) Publicization to all district staff of
available digital applications to alert first responders to
emergency situations;

(D) A description of how the school district
will evaluate, procure and implement advances in school
safety and security technology;
(E) A description of how the school district will coordinate effectively with law enforcement resources;

(F) A system to comply with the staff training requirements contained in paragraph (xxxviii) of this subsection.

(xxxviii) Establish and implement a system to train all school district employees on techniques to improve school safety and security in the event of a violent intruder attack. The training shall be based on a nationally recognized program in school safety and security training. The system shall include methods to:

(A) Recognize a violent intruder attack has commenced;

(B) Clearly and directly notify other individuals within a school and law enforcement officials that a violent intruder attack has commenced;

(C) Safely and strategically evacuate during a violent intruder attack;
(D) Barricade or otherwise secure a room or other portion of a school facility during a violent intruder attack;

(E) Use noise, movement, distance, distraction and subterfuge to interrupt a violent intruder attack.

21-3-131. School bus standards; operators; vehicle operation; liability limited.

(b) Each district shall establish and maintain minimum standards for the operation of school buses, including:

(x) Effective school year 2016-2017, and each school year thereafter, all school buses transporting students to and from school and to and from student activities, as defined under W.S. 21-13-320(b)(i) and (ii), shall be equipped with an external video system and may be equipped with an internal video system. Equipment specifications shall be prescribed by rule and regulation of the department. Recordings or images from a video system
31-5-507. Meeting or passing stopped school bus; markings and visual signals.

(e) When a recording or image from a video system installed under W.S. 21-3-131(b)(x) evidences that a vehicle has been engaged in a violation of subsection (a) of this section and the identity of the driver of the vehicle is unknown, the person who registered the vehicle shall be fined one hundred dollars ($100.00). A certificate, based on inspection of recorded images produced by an external video system equipped on a school bus pursuant to W.S. 21-3-131(b)(x) and sworn to or affirmed by a law enforcement officer shall be prima facie evidence of the facts contained in it.

(f) It shall be a defense to enforcement of a fine issued under subsection (e) of this section that the person
who registered the vehicle and was issued the fine was not operating the vehicle and did not provide permission to the driver of the vehicle to operate the vehicle at the time of the violation.

35-9-505. Applicability; fire and safety drills required in schools; supervision of drills.

(b) In every public and private school in Wyoming, there shall be a fire drill at least once every month. Safety drills may be used in lieu of fire drills if approved by and coordinated with the local fire department provided fire drills are conducted at each school not less than four (4) times during any one (1) academic year and further provided the school's fire alarm is tested at each fire or safety drill. A safety drill includes any organized response to a potential threat to the health and safety of the student population and drills contemplated by a school district's comprehensive safety and security plan developed in accordance with W.S. 21-3-110(a)(xxxvii). The school administration shall supervise and administer this subsection and shall determine the types of safety drills appropriate for each school. In localities where a paid fire department
is maintained, a fire department member shall be requested to be in attendance at each fire or safety drill conducted within a school for the purpose of instruction and constructive criticism.

Section 2.

(a) There is appropriated one hundred thousand dollars ($100,000.00) from the school foundation program account to the department of education. This appropriation shall only be expended for purposes of assisting school districts to provide safety and security training to school district staff. The department shall endeavor to provide funding to as many school districts as possible. The appropriation provided in this section shall be for the period beginning July 1, 2019 and ending June 30, 2020. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, this appropriation shall not be transferred or expended for any other purposes and any unexpended funds shall revert to the school foundation program account on July 1, 2020. The department's standard budget request for fiscal years 2021-2022 shall include a similar appropriation request.
(b) By July 1, 2019, a school district may apply to the department for financial assistance to provide safety and security training to school district staff. Application shall be on a form and in a manner prescribed by the department.

Section 3. This act is effective July 1, 2019.