

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 23 (Delegate Long)
Ways and Means

Baltimore County - Public Schools - Active Assailant Event Training and Drills

This bill requires the Baltimore County Superintendent of Schools to conduct active assailant event training for school personnel each school year. The superintendent must also require each public school in Baltimore County to conduct active assailant event drills three times each school year. The training and drills must comply with federal guidelines or be consistent with best practices. The bill includes recordkeeping requirements. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2018.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill pertains only to Baltimore County.

Local Effect: Baltimore County Public Schools (BCPS) expenditures may increase by a minimal amount up to as much as \$76,000 annually beginning in FY 2019, depending on the number of teachers trained each year. No effect on local revenues. **This bill imposes a mandate on a unit of local government.**

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: There are no requirements in State law to provide training or conduct drills specifically related to active assailant events in schools. However, State law requires each county superintendent to hold a fire drill in each public school in accordance with the State Fire Prevention Code. The code requires educational facilities that are fully protected by an automatic sprinkler system to conduct five fire drills, including at least two during the

first four months of schools. Educational facilities without automatic sprinklers must conduct eight drills, with at least three during the first four months of school.

The Maryland State Department of Education's 2017 update of its *Emergency Planning Guidelines for Local School Systems and Schools* recommends carrying out the following five types of drills at least once per year:

- **evacuation:** Students and staff are led to the closest and safest way out of the building;
- **reverse evacuation:** Students and staff are moved as quickly as possible back into secure buildings and roll is taken;
- **lock-down:** Students are instructed to report to the nearest classroom and close and lock all doors and windows;
- **shelter-in-place:** Students and staff report to assigned locations;
- **drop, cover, and hold:** Students and staff take cover under a desk, away from windows, cover their eyes, make efforts to protect vital organs, and hold onto desk legs.

Background: Chapter 372 of 2013 established the Maryland Center for School Safety (MCSS) as an independent unit within State government. It is currently housed at the Maryland Coordination and Analysis Center, the State's Fusion Center under the Maryland State Police. During the 2016-2017 school year, MCSS sponsored two train-the-trainer sessions on active shooter preparedness, conducted by the ALICE Training Institute, a national leader in school safety training. The sessions cost \$21,000 for 200 attendees (who did not have to pay to attend). Individuals who complete the training may be eligible to become certified trainers for school staff in their jurisdictions. MCSS advises that several representatives from Baltimore County attended the training, and that it plans to repeat the training during the current school year. BCPS confirms that approximately 15 individuals completed the ALICE training to serve as trainers.

The federal *Guide for Developing High-Quality School Emergency Operations Plans*, which was developed jointly by the U.S. Department of Education, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and other federal agencies in 2013, does not include any specific guidelines related to the number of active shooter drills that public schools should conduct.

Local Expenditures: BCPS estimates the total cost of providing active assailant training to *all* of its teachers to be approximately \$76,000, with an additional cost of \$7,140 in the first year to train a cadre of trainers. This estimate is based on the trainers conducting on-site training for all school personnel and each school staff person completing an online course at a cost of \$4 per person every year. The school system is currently soliciting bids to conduct the training.

The Department of Legislative Services advises that actual expenditures may be less for two reasons. First, BCPS already has a cadre of trainers available who completed the ALICE training. Second, the bill does not require that BCPS train all school personnel each year, only that the training be provided to school personnel each year. To the extent that BCPS does not require all school personnel to undergo the training each year, the annual cost may be less than BCPS' estimate of \$76,000.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 193 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing before the House Ways and Means Committee, but no further action was taken on the bill.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore County; Maryland Center for School Safety; Maryland State Department of Education; U.S. Department of Homeland Security; Department of State Police; Department of Legislative Services

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nb/rhh

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