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H.B. 266
135th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Version: As Introduced

Primary Sponsor: Rep. Wiggam

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SUMMARY

- Requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with disability advocacy groups, to update the requirements for emergency management plans to include accommodations and safeguards regarding the evacuation of individuals with disabilities.
- Requires districts and schools to update emergency management plans to include evacuation procedures for individuals with disabilities.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Emergency management plans update

Not later than December 1, 2024, the bill requires the Department of Public Safety, in consultation with disability advocacy groups, to update the requirements for emergency management plans required under current law to include accommodations and safeguards with regard to the evacuation of students, staff, and visitors with disabilities while on school grounds in accordance with the federal Americans with Disabilities Act.¹ The Department is not required to update plans under the bill for single-story school buildings that have a ramp with a nonslip surface located at each building entrance and exit.

The bill further requires that all school districts and schools, including a community school, a STEM school, a college-preparatory boarding school, a district or school operating a career-technical education program, a chartered nonpublic school, an educational service center, a preschool program or school-age child care program, or any other facility that primarily provided educational services to children subject to regulation by the Department of

¹ R.C. 5502.264(B). Also see 42 United States Code 12102.

Education and Workforce, update emergency management plans to include the evacuation procedures prescribed under the bill.²

The bill requires that, not later than July 1, 2025, each administrator update the emergency management plan for each building under their control.³ Under continuing law and this bill, an “administrator” is the superintendent, principal, chief administrative officer, or other person having supervisory authority over a school district or school described above.⁴

The bill also requires administrators to update the education plan of each student who has an individualized education program (IEP) or who has been identified as a child with a disability to include a specific description of accommodations for evacuating the student in an emergency, if such a student’s education plan does not include one.⁵

Background

Under current law, school administrators must develop comprehensive emergency management plans to identify potential hazards to student and staff safety, propose changes to prevent dangerous problems and circumstances, and develop protocols and plans for all of the following:⁶

1. A protocol for addressing serious threats to the safety of property, students, employees, or administrators;
2. A protocol for responding to any emergency events that occur and compromise the safety of property, students, employees, or administrators, including: a floor plan that is unique to each floor of the building, a site plan, and an emergency contact sheet;
3. A threat assessment plan; and
4. A protocol for school threat assessment teams.

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	09-12-23

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² R.C. 5502.264(A), 3314.03, 3326.11, and 3328.24.

³ R.C. 5502.264(C).

⁴ R.C. 5502.262, not in the bill.

⁵ R.C. 5502.264(D).

⁶ R.C. 5502.262, not in the bill.