OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

www.lsc.ohio.gov

Office of Research and Drafting

Legislative Budget Office

S.B. 290
136th General Assembly

Bill Analysis

Click here for S.B. 290's Fiscal Note

Version: As Reported by Senate Education

Primary Sponsors: Sens. Patton and Reynolds

Mariah M. Parr, Attorney

SUMMARY

- Requires each public and chartered nonpublic school to install at least one exterior secure master key box for each school building that is assigned an internal retrieval number by the Department of Education and Workforce.
- Requires secure master key boxes to be installed on a school building or in a strategic location for optimal law enforcement response on school premises.
- Permits the Attorney General to provide School Safety Training Grants for the purchase and installation of an exterior secure master key box.

DETAILED ANALYSIS

Exterior secure master key box installation

The bill requires each school district, community school, STEM school, college-preparatory boarding school, and chartered nonpublic school to purchase and install at least one exterior secure master key box for each school building operated by the district or school that is assigned an internal retrieval number by the Department of Education and Workforce. An exterior secure master key box must be installed on the school building or in a strategic location for optimal law enforcement response on school premises. Each master key box must permit emergency access to both law enforcement agencies and emergency responders from an exterior location designated by the local law enforcement authorities. A master key box must also meet the standards prescribed under Underwriters Laboratories Standard 1037.

The bill requires each district or school to collaborate with law enforcement to include in the master key box:

1. Master external and internal keys;
2. Access cards; and

3. Maps of the school buildings.

A district or school must provide updates of school building maps to local law enforcement agencies and emergency responders when substantial modifications, such as new facilities, are made to a school building. A district or school must also notify local law enforcement agencies and emergency responders when changes are made to master external keys, master internal keys, or access cards and ensure that all are in current operable form.

The bill expressly states that any record disclosing the location of an exterior secure master key box on a school building or on school premises is not a public record.[1]

School Safety Training Grants

The bill expressly permits a district or school to apply for a School Safety Training Grant to pay for the cost of purchasing and installing an exterior secure master key box. The bill adds this purpose to the existing permitted uses of appropriated funds for School Safety Training Grants under continuing law.[2]

H.B. 96, the main operating budget of the 136th General Assembly, permits the Attorney General to award School Safety Training Grants to public and chartered nonpublic schools, educational service centers, local law enforcement agencies, and schools operated by county boards of developmental disabilities administering special education services programs to use for school safety and school climate programs and training. H.B. 96 appropriated $10 million in each of fiscal years 2026 and 2027 for the grants.[3]

HISTORY

Action	Date
Introduced	10-08-25
Reported, S. Education	04-14-26

ANSB0290RS-136/ar

[1] R.C. 3313.475(A), (B), and (D), 3314.03(A)(11)(d), 3326.11, and 3328.24.

[2] R.C. 3313.475(C); Section 3 amending Section 221.20 of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly.

[3] Section 221.10 of H.B. 96 of the 136th General Assembly, not in the bill.