

MAINE STATE LEGISLATURE

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131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

Legislative Document

No. 892

S.P. 384

In Senate, February 28, 2023

**An Act to Improve School Safety and Preparedness Through
Comprehensive Health and Safety and Emergency Management
Planning**

Reference to the Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs suggested and ordered printed.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D M Grant", is positioned above the printed name of the Secretary of the Senate.

DAREK M. GRANT
Secretary of the Senate

Presented by Senator DAUGHTRY of Cumberland.
Cosponsored by Senator LaFOUNTAIN of Kennebec and
Senators: CHIPMAN of Cumberland, DUSON of Cumberland, HICKMAN of Kennebec,
Representatives: ANKELES of Brunswick, GEIGER of Rockland, GOLEK of Harpswell,
MONTELL of Gardiner.

Be it enacted by the People of the State of Maine as follows:

Sec. 1. 20-A MRSA §1001, sub-§16, as amended by PL 2021, c. 464, §1, is further amended to read:

16. Comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan. Each school board shall annually approve a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan that meets nationally recognized practices and is developed by the school unit administration working collaboratively with school teachers and staff and local, county and state public safety officials, fire-fighting personnel, emergency management officials, mental health officials, law enforcement officials, school nurses, physicians and public health staff to identify and deal with all hazards and potential hazards that could reasonably be expected to affect a facility or unit under the authority of the school administrative unit appropriate stakeholders. The approval of a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan under this subsection is public information. At the request of any school board member or full-time school employee, the school board shall form a steering committee composed of school employees, including a school employee designated by that employee's school as having oversight regarding school safety, school board members, parents and others. A majority of the school employees must be chosen by the local representatives of the applicable bargaining unit if the school employees are covered by a collective bargaining agreement. The steering committee shall regularly review and refine the comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan. The following information pertaining to a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan is public information:

- A. A description of the scope and purpose of the comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan and the process used for developing and updating the plan;
- B. General information on auditing for safety and preparedness;
- C. Roles and responsibilities of school administrators, teachers and staff and the designated chain of command during an emergency; and
- D. Strategies for conveying information to parents and the general public during an emergency.

Except as provided in paragraphs A to D, release of the contents of a comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan approved under this subsection is subject to the limitations set forth in Title 1, section 402, subsection 3, paragraph L.

SUMMARY

This bill requires that a school comprehensive health and safety and emergency management plan approved by a school board meet nationally recognized practices and be developed collaboratively with appropriate stakeholders. It also requires that any steering committee formed by the school board as part of the plan update and approval process include a school employee designated by that employee's school as having oversight regarding school safety.