

ONE HUNDRED SEVENTH LEGISLATURE - FIRST SESSION - 2021
COMMITTEE STATEMENT
LB322

Hearing Date: Tuesday February 09, 2021
Committee On: Education
Introducer: Williams
One Liner: Adopt the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act

Roll Call Vote - Final Committee Action:
Advanced to General File with amendment(s)

Vote Results:
Aye: 8 Senators Day, Linehan, McKinney, Morfeld, Murman, Pansing Brooks, Sanders, Walz
Nay:
Absent:
Present Not Voting:

Oral Testimony:

Proponents: Jolene Palmer Mike Dulaney Virginia (Ginny) Gohr Mario Scalora J.J. Ekeler Bill Jelkin Mark Adler Steve Cerveny	Representing: Nebraska Department of Education NCSA, NSEA, NASB, STANCE, ESUCC, NRCSA BoysTown National Hotline Self Nebraska Catholic Conference Millard Public Schools Ralston Public Schools Omaha Police Department
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Submitted Written Testimony:

Proponents: Cora Schrader	Representing: Children's Hospital & Medical Center
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Opponents:	Representing:
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Neutral:	Representing:
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Summary of purpose and/or changes:
Section 1: Creates the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act.

Section 2: Sets out Definitions therein.

Section 3: Requires the Department of Education or the state school security director to establish a statewide reporting system, known as Safe2HelpNE, to support school based threat assessment teams in reducing risk and incidents of violence resulting in harm to self, others, or school property. This report line would be available to any public or private school with a threat assessment team and would allow a student, staff member, parent, or community member to anonymously report a potential threat.

The report line would be staffed 24/7 by professionals with the appropriate training that would alert the appropriate threat assessment team upon receipt of concern. Training includes; de-escalation techniques, threat assessment and management processes, suicide prevention, recognizing mental illness and emotional disturbance, applicable confidentiality and privacy laws. Staff would also have access to clinical consultation and support 24/7 from a licensed mental health professional.

Report line staff would immediately alert the appropriate threat assessment team of any concerns directly regarding a student, school staff member, or school property. If immediate safety is a concern emergency services would be contacted first.

Any alert received by the report line will be reported to the Department. The Department is then responsible for tracking any concerns received and actions taken. Such information shall be considered security records and kept separate from educational records.

Section 4: Requires the Department to provide training for members of the threat assessment team that allows them to work collaboratively with other teams, increase awareness of threats among school staff, students, and the public, and interrupt violence in the planning stage in order to thwart potential harm to people and property.

Section 5: States intent to appropriate money from the General Fund for ten years in order to finance this Act and sets out cost-benefit analysis reporting requirements to the Education Committee at the end of those ten years.

Section 6: Allows the NDE to adopt and promulgate rules to carry out this act.

Section 7: Includes carrying out the School Safety and Security Reporting System Act under the duties of the state school security director.

Explanation of amendments:

AM464 The Committee Amendment becomes the bill. The changes from LB322, as introduced are noted below. All other provisions from LB322 are included in the Committee Amendment.

Sec. 2. Removes the term extremism from the phrase behavior indicative of extremism or terrorism within the definition of concerning behavior.

Changes threat to concerning behavior on page 1 line 7.

Adds definitions for Report line staff and Safe2HelpNE report line for the purposes of this act.

Sec. 3. Changes the word threat to concerning behavior on page 2 line 9.

The ability to report concerning behavior by text as a mode of communication to the report line has been removed and replaced with mobile application.

Metrics for reporting requirements placed on the Safe2HelpNE report line staff have been added in Sec. 3 subsection 6.

Sec. 4. The knowledge and skills needed to engage in crisis intervention has been added to training requirements provided to threat assessment teams by the department.

Changes the term threat to concerning behavior on page 3 line 18.

Lynne Walz, Chairperson