

1 A bill to be entitled
2 An act relating to the safety of students; amending s.
3 30.15, F.S.; revising the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron
4 Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to
5 include child care facilities; requiring a sheriff to
6 establish a guardian program under certain
7 circumstances; requiring certain security guards to
8 meet specified school guardian training and screening
9 requirements; requiring a child care facility or
10 security agency to be responsible for all costs
11 related to the guardian program; authorizing a sheriff
12 to waive such costs for a child care facility;
13 prohibiting a sheriff from waiving costs for initial
14 training of a school security guard; authorizing a
15 sheriff to certify a person as a school security guard
16 if he or she meets specified criteria; revising
17 firearm requirements for school guardians and school
18 security guards; authorizing a sheriff to issue
19 certificates to school security guards who meet
20 specified requirements; requiring a sheriff to
21 maintain specified documentation; requiring a child
22 care facility or employing security agency to make
23 specified reports; requiring the Department of Law
24 Enforcement to maintain specified records; requiring a
25 sheriff to make specified reports of certain school

26 guardian or school security guard trainings;
27 prohibiting a child care facility from operating a
28 school guardian program under certain circumstances;
29 amending s. 402.305, F.S.; authorizing a child care
30 facility to partner with specified entities to
31 establish or assign safe-school officers and
32 participate in the guardian program; requiring a child
33 care facility to pay for the full cost of the guardian
34 program; requiring compliance with specified
35 provisions relating to safe-school officers; providing
36 construction; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring
37 specified school safety requirements to be implemented
38 during specified time periods; revising the
39 requirements for certain gates and campus access
40 points to be open or unlocked; providing that certain
41 instructional spaces for career and technical
42 education are exempt from specified requirements under
43 certain circumstances; providing that certain
44 provisions apply to common areas on school campuses;
45 providing exemptions from certain requirements for
46 doors, gates, and campus access points; providing
47 requirements for locked barriers between classrooms
48 and open school campuses; requiring certain protocols
49 and policies to be provided to substitute teachers;
50 amending s. 1006.12, F.S.; requiring a sheriff to

51 | conduct specified training; requiring that certain
 52 | reports be submitted to a school security guard's
 53 | employing agency; requiring a sheriff's approval
 54 | before a school security guard's employment in a
 55 | county; requiring the Office of Safe Schools to
 56 | provide specified information to the Department of Law
 57 | Enforcement; providing an effective date.
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59 | Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:
 60 |

61 | **Section 1. Paragraph (k) of subsection (1) of section**
 62 | **30.15, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:**

63 | 30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

64 | (1) Sheriffs, in their respective counties, in person or
 65 | by deputy, shall:

66 | (k) Assist district school boards and charter school
 67 | governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child
 68 | care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options
 69 | in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must, at a minimum, provide access to
 70 | a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian
 71 | Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active
 72 | assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this
 73 | paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to
 74 | this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement
 75 | capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an

76 active assailant incident.

77 1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to
78 implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of
79 school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s.
80 1006.12, the sheriff in that county shall establish a guardian
81 program to provide training for school guardians or school
82 security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to school
83 district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school, child care
84 facility, or security agency employees, either directly or
85 through a contract with another sheriff's office that has
86 established a guardian program.

87 b. A charter school governing board in a school district
88 that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian
89 program may request the sheriff in the county to establish a
90 guardian program for the purpose of training the charter school
91 employees or school security guards consistent with the
92 requirements of subparagraph 2. If the county sheriff denies the
93 request, the charter school governing board may contract with a
94 sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such
95 training. The charter school governing board must notify the
96 superintendent and the sheriff in the charter school's county of
97 the contract prior to its execution. The security agency
98 employing a school security guard is responsible for all
99 training and screening-related costs for a school security
100 guard.

101 c. A private school or child care facility in a school
102 district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a
103 guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of
104 the private school or child care facility establish a guardian
105 program for the purpose of training private school employees,
106 child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the
107 county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child
108 care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county
109 who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to
110 provide such training. The private school or child care facility
111 must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care
112 facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another
113 county before its execution. The private school, child care
114 facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and
115 screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The
116 sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid
117 by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are
118 not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the
119 sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-
120 related costs of any school district or charter school employee.

121 d. The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b.
122 is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff
123 providing such training shall adhere to the course of
124 instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. This
125 subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing

126 additional training. A school guardian or school security guard
127 who has completed the training program required in sub-
128 subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another
129 sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph
130 unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her
131 appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as
132 a school security guard in a school.

133 e. The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to
134 subparagraph 2. for school district and charter school employees
135 will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related
136 costs and for providing a one-time stipend of \$500 to each
137 school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

138 f. The sheriff may waive the training and screening-
139 related costs for a private school or child care facility for a
140 school guardian program. Funds provided pursuant to sub-
141 subparagraph e. may not be used to subsidize any costs that have
142 been waived by the sheriff. The sheriff may not waive the
143 training and screening-related costs required to be paid by a
144 security agency for initial training or ongoing training of a
145 school security guard.

146 g. A person who is certified and in good standing under
147 the Florida Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission,
148 who meets the qualifications established in s. 943.13, and who
149 is otherwise qualified for the position of a school guardian or
150 school security guard may be certified as a school guardian or

151 school security guard by the sheriff without completing the
152 training requirements of sub-subparagraph 2.b. However, a person
153 certified as a school guardian or school security guard under
154 this sub-subparagraph must meet the requirements of sub-
155 subparagraphs 2.c.-e.

156 2. A sheriff who establishes a program shall consult with
157 the Department of Law Enforcement on programmatic guiding
158 principles, practices, and resources, and shall certify as
159 school guardians, without the power of arrest, school employees,
160 as specified in s. 1006.12(3), or shall certify as school
161 security guards those persons employed by a security agency who
162 meet the criteria specified in s. 1006.12(4), and who:

163 a. Hold a valid license issued under s. 790.06 or are
164 otherwise eligible to possess or carry a concealed firearm under
165 chapter 790.

166 b. After satisfying the requirements of s. 1006.12(7),
167 complete a 144-hour training program, consisting of 12 hours of
168 training to improve the school guardian's knowledge and skills
169 necessary to respond to and de-escalate incidents on school
170 premises and 132 total hours of comprehensive firearm safety and
171 proficiency training conducted by Criminal Justice Standards and
172 Training Commission-certified instructors, which must include:

173 (I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the
174 Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law
175 Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least

176 | 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than
177 | associated with academy training. Program participants must
178 | achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

179 | (II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

180 | (III) Eight hours of discretionary shooting instruction
181 | using state-of-the-art simulator exercises.

182 | (IV) Sixteen hours of instruction in active shooter or
183 | assailant scenarios.

184 | (V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

185 | (VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

186 | c. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
187 | psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
188 | Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
189 | evaluation to the sheriff's office. The Department of Law
190 | Enforcement is authorized to provide the sheriff's office with
191 | mental health and substance abuse data for compliance with this
192 | paragraph.

193 | d. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
194 | random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
195 | 112.0455 and the sheriff's office.

196 | e. Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
197 | inspection, and firearm qualification on at least an annual
198 | basis.

199 |

200 | The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the

201 training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g.
202 shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet
203 the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the
204 sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and
205 equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification,
206 inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian
207 certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this
208 paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3)
209 only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district
210 superintendent, charter school principal, ~~or~~ private school head
211 of school, or child care facility owner. A sheriff who conducts
212 the training for a school security guard or waives the training
213 requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and
214 determines that the school security guard has met all the
215 requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security
216 guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this
217 section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain
218 documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training,
219 certification, and qualification records for each school
220 security guard certified by the sheriff.

221 3.a. ~~(I)~~ Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or
222 school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the
223 certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the
224 name, date of birth, and certification date of the school
225 guardian or school security guard.

226 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each sheriff who issued a~~
227 ~~school guardian certificate must report to the Department of Law~~
228 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of~~
229 ~~each school guardian who received a certificate from the~~
230 ~~sheriff.~~

231 b. ~~(I)~~ By February 1 and September 1 of each school year,
232 each school district, charter school, ~~and~~ private school, child
233 care facility, and employing security agency must report in the
234 manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name,
235 date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as
236 a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The
237 school district, charter school, ~~and~~ private school, child care
238 facility, and employing security agency must also report in the
239 manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date
240 each school guardian or school security guard separates from his
241 or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a
242 school security guard in a school.

243 ~~(II) By September 1, 2024, each school district, charter~~
244 ~~school, and private school must report to the Department of Law~~
245 ~~Enforcement the name, date of birth, and initial and end of~~
246 ~~appointment dates, as applicable, of each person appointed as a~~
247 ~~school guardian.~~

248 c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list
249 of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a
250 school security guard in the state. The list must include the

251 name and certification date of each school guardian and school
252 security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school
253 guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the
254 name of the school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school,
255 or child care facility in which the school guardian is
256 appointed, or the employing security agency of a school security
257 guard, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and,
258 if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her
259 appointment as a school guardian or the last date a school
260 security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date.
261 The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any
262 person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph
263 1.d.

264 d. Each sheriff must report on a quarterly basis to the
265 Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school
266 guardian or school security guard trainings, including the dates
267 of the training, the training locations, a contact person to
268 register for the training, and the class capacity. If no
269 trainings are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to report
270 to the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law
271 Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming
272 school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement
273 must update such list quarterly.

274 e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required
275 by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the

276 Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the
277 submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed
278 eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to
279 receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

280 f. A school district, charter school, ~~or~~ private school,
281 child care facility, or employing security agency that fails to
282 report the information required by this subparagraph is
283 prohibited from operating ~~may not operate~~ a school guardian
284 program or employing school security guards in ~~for~~ the following
285 school year, unless the missing ~~school district, charter school,~~
286 ~~or private school~~ has submitted the required information is
287 provided.

288 g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the
289 Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of
290 Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, ~~or~~
291 private school, or child care facility that has not complied
292 with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

293 h. The Department of Law Enforcement may adopt rules to
294 implement the requirements of this subparagraph, including
295 requiring additional reporting information only as necessary to
296 uniquely identify each school guardian and school security guard
297 reported.

298 **Section 2. Subsection (20) is added to section 402.305,**
299 **Florida Statutes, to read:**

300 402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

301 (20) SAFE SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

302 (a) A child care facility may partner with a law
303 enforcement agency or a security agency to establish or assign
304 one or more safe-school officers established in s. 1006.12(1)-
305 (4). The child care facility is responsible for the full cost of
306 implementing any such option, which includes all training costs
307 under the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel
308 Guardian Program under s. 30.15(1)(k).

309 (b) A child care facility that establishes a safe-school
310 officer must comply with the requirements of s. 1006.12.
311 References to a school district, district school board, or
312 district school superintendent in s. 1006.12(1)-(5) shall also
313 mean an owner of a child care facility. References to a school
314 district employee in s. 1006.12(3) shall also mean child care
315 personnel.

316 **Section 3. Paragraph (f) of subsection (6) of section**
317 **1006.07 is amended, and paragraph (h) is added to that**
318 **subsection, to read:**

319 1006.07 District school board duties relating to student
320 discipline and school safety.—The district school board shall
321 provide for the proper accounting for all students, for the
322 attendance and control of students at school, and for proper
323 attention to health, safety, and other matters relating to the
324 welfare of students, including:

325 (6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district

326 school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures
 327 for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the
 328 assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior
 329 poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

330 (f) School safety requirements. ~~By August 1, 2024,~~ Each
 331 school district and charter school governing board shall comply
 332 with the following school safety requirements, which,
 333 notwithstanding any other requirements under this paragraph,
 334 must be enforced, at a minimum, from 30 minutes before the
 335 school start time until 30 minutes after the end of the school
 336 day:

337 1. All gates or other access points that restrict ingress
 338 to or egress from a school campus shall remain closed and locked
 339 when students are on campus. A gate or other campus access point
 340 may not be open or unlocked, regardless of whether it is during
 341 normal school hours, unless:

342 a. Attended or actively staffed by a person when students
 343 are on campus;

344 b. The use is in accordance with a shared use agreement
 345 pursuant to s. 1013.101; ~~or~~

346 c. Another closed or locked gate or access point separates
 347 the open or unlocked gate from areas occupied by students; or

348 ~~d.e.~~ The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,
 349 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
 350 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the gate or

351 other access point is not subject to this requirement based upon
352 other safety measures at the school. The office may conduct a
353 compliance visit pursuant to s. 1001.212(14) to review if such
354 determination is appropriate.

355 2.a. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
356 must be locked to prevent ingress when occupied by students,
357 except between class periods when students are moving between
358 classrooms or other instructional spaces. If a classroom or
359 other instructional space door must be left unlocked or open for
360 any reason other than between class periods when students are
361 moving between classrooms or other instructional spaces, the
362 door must be actively staffed by a person standing or seated at
363 the door.

364 b. Instructional spaces for career and technical education
365 which are designed as open areas for which compliance with the
366 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. affects the health and
367 safety of students may be exempted from compliance with that
368 sub-subparagraph by the school safety specialist. To be exempt,
369 the school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must
370 document in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool portal
371 maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the instructional
372 space is exempt from these requirements due to negative impacts
373 to student health and safety and the presence of other safety
374 measures at the school that prevent egress from the
375 instructional space to hallways or other classrooms or

376 instructional spaces.

377 c. Common areas on a school campus, including, but not
378 limited to, cafeterias, auditoriums, and media centers, which
379 are used for instructional time or student testing must meet the
380 requirements of sub-subparagraph a. only when such areas are
381 being used for instructional time or student testing.

382 3. All campus access doors, gates, and other access points
383 that allow ingress to or egress from a school building shall
384 remain closed and locked at all times to prevent ingress,
385 unless:

386 a. A person is actively entering or exiting the door,
387 gate, or other access point;

388 b. The door, gate, or access point is actively staffed by
389 school personnel to prevent unauthorized entry; or

390 c. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee,
391 has documented in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
392 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools that the open
393 and unlocked door, gate, or other access point is not subject to
394 this requirement based upon other safety measures at the school.
395 There must be at least one locked barrier between classrooms and
396 instructional spaces and open school campus.

397

398 The office may conduct a compliance visit pursuant to s.
399 1001.212(14) to review if such determination is appropriate. All
400 campus access doors, gates, and other access points may be

401 electronically or manually controlled by school personnel to
402 allow access by authorized visitors, students, and school
403 personnel.

404 4. All school classrooms and other instructional spaces
405 must clearly and conspicuously mark the safest areas in each
406 classroom or other instructional space where students must
407 shelter in place during an emergency. Students must be notified
408 of these safe areas within the first 10 days of the school year.
409 If it is not feasible to clearly and conspicuously mark the
410 safest areas in a classroom or other instructional space, the
411 school safety specialist, or his or her designee, must document
412 such determination in the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool
413 portal maintained by the Office of Safe Schools, identifying
414 where affected students must shelter in place. The office shall
415 assist the school safety specialist with compliance during the
416 inspection required under s. 1001.212(14).

417
418 Persons who are aware of a violation of this paragraph must
419 report the violation to the school principal. The school
420 principal must report the violation to the school safety
421 specialist no later than the next business day after receiving
422 such report. If the person who violated this paragraph is the
423 school principal or charter school administrator, the report
424 must be made directly to the district school superintendent or
425 charter school governing board, as applicable.

426 (h) Provision of school safety protocols and policies.—
 427 Each substitute teacher must be provided all school safety
 428 protocols and policies before beginning his or her first day of
 429 substitute teaching at a school.

430 **Section 4. Subsections (4) and (5) of section 1006.12,**
 431 **Florida Statutes, are amended to read:**

432 1006.12 Safe-school officers at each public school.—For
 433 the protection and safety of school personnel, property,
 434 students, and visitors, each district school board and school
 435 district superintendent shall partner with law enforcement
 436 agencies or security agencies to establish or assign one or more
 437 safe-school officers at each school facility within the
 438 district, including charter schools. A district school board
 439 must collaborate with charter school governing boards to
 440 facilitate charter school access to all safe-school officer
 441 options available under this section. The school district may
 442 implement any combination of the options in subsections (1)–(4)
 443 to best meet the needs of the school district and charter
 444 schools.

445 (4) SCHOOL SECURITY GUARD.—A school district or charter
 446 school governing board may contract with a security agency as
 447 defined in s. 493.6101(18) to employ as a school security guard
 448 an individual who holds a Class "D" and Class "G" license
 449 pursuant to chapter 493, provided the following training and
 450 contractual conditions are met:

451 (a) An individual who serves as a school security guard,
 452 for purposes of satisfying the requirements of this section,
 453 must:

454 1. Demonstrate completion of 144 hours of required
 455 training conducted by a sheriff pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.

456 2. Pass a psychological evaluation administered by a
 457 psychologist licensed under chapter 490 and designated by the
 458 Department of Law Enforcement and submit the results of the
 459 evaluation to the sheriff's office, and school district, ~~or~~
 460 charter school governing board, or employing security agency, as
 461 applicable. The Department of Law Enforcement is authorized to
 462 provide the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or~~ charter school
 463 governing board, or employing security agency with mental health
 464 and substance abuse data for compliance with this paragraph.

465 3. Submit to and pass an initial drug test and subsequent
 466 random drug tests in accordance with the requirements of s.
 467 112.0455 and the sheriff's office, school district, ~~or~~ charter
 468 school governing board, or employing security agency, as
 469 applicable.

470 4. Be approved to work as a school security guard by the
 471 sheriff of each county in which the school security guard will
 472 be assigned to a school before commencing work at any school in
 473 that county. The sheriff's approval authorizes the security
 474 agency to assign the school security guard to any school in the
 475 county, and the sheriff's approval is not limited to any

476 particular school.

477 ~~5.4.~~ Successfully complete ongoing training, weapon
478 inspection, and firearm qualification conducted by a sheriff
479 pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k)2.e. on at least an annual basis and
480 provide documentation to the sheriff's office, school district,
481 ~~or~~ charter school governing board, or employing security agency,
482 as applicable.

483 (b) The contract between a security agency and a school
484 district or a charter school governing board regarding
485 requirements applicable to school security guards serving in the
486 capacity of a safe-school officer for purposes of satisfying the
487 requirements of this section shall define the entity or entities
488 responsible ~~for training and the responsibilities~~ for
489 maintaining records relating to training, inspection, and
490 firearm qualification.

491 (c) School security guards serving in the capacity of a
492 safe-school officer pursuant to this subsection are in support
493 of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, and
494 must aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant
495 incidents on school premises.

496 (d) The Office of Safe Schools shall provide the
497 Department of Law Enforcement any information related to a
498 school security guard that the office receives pursuant to
499 subsection (5).

500 (5) NOTIFICATION.—The district school superintendent or

501 charter school administrator, or a respective designee~~7~~ shall
502 notify the county sheriff and the Office of Safe Schools
503 immediately after, but no later than 72 hours after:

504 (a) A safe-school officer is dismissed for misconduct or
505 is otherwise disciplined.

506 (b) A safe-school officer discharges his or her firearm in
507 the exercise of the safe-school officer's duties, other than for
508 training purposes.

509

510 If a district school board, through its adopted policies,
511 procedures, or actions, denies a charter school access to any
512 safe-school officer options pursuant to this section, the school
513 district must assign a school resource officer or school safety
514 officer to the charter school. Under such circumstances, the
515 charter school's share of the costs of the school resource
516 officer or school safety officer may not exceed the safe school
517 allocation funds provided to the charter school pursuant to s.
518 1011.62(12) and shall be retained by the school district.

519 **Section 5.** This act shall take effect July 1, 2025.