CHAPTER 2026-80

Committee Substitute for
Committee Substitute for House Bill No. 757

An act relating to school safety; amending s. 30.15, F.S.; requiring sheriffs to assist public postsecondary educational institutions in implementing guardian programs under certain provisions; authorizing public postsecondary educational institutions to participate in the school guardian program; requiring a sheriff to establish a guardian training program or contract with certain other sheriff's offices to do so in certain circumstances; removing provisions relating to certain private school and child care facility guardian programs; amending s. 790.115, F.S.; creating the offense of discharging a weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school; providing an exception; providing that a person arrested for certain offenses must be held in custody until brought before the court for admittance to bail; amending s. 921.0022, F.S.; ranking an offense created by the act on the offense severity ranking chart of the Criminal Punishment Code; amending s. 943.082, F.S.; requiring that postsecondary institutions be made aware of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool in a specified manner; requiring certain public postsecondary educational institutions to promote the use of such tool; amending s. 1003.25, F.S.; requiring specified educational records for certain students to be transferred to a Florida College System institution or state university under certain circumstances; requiring the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations, respectively; amending s. 1006.07, F.S.; requiring certain trainings to include specified information relating to school safety; authorizing, in certain circumstances, state universities and Florida College System institutions to share specified records or information that are confidential or exempt from disclosure with specified agencies; creating s. 1006.601, F.S.; providing a short title; defining the term "public postsecondary educational institution"; authorizing such institutions to participate in certain programs; authorizing such institutions to appoint certified school guardians; authorizing specified persons to serve as school guardians; requiring such institutions to adopt specified emergency response plans; requiring such institutions to provide specified training, post specified information, and adopt threat management processes; requiring such institutions to develop policies for specified student, faculty, and staff supports; authorizing the State Board of Education and the Board of Governors to adopt rules and regulations, respectively; reenacting ss. 402.305(19)(a), 843.08, 943.03(16), 1001.212(1) and (4), and 1006.12(3)(a), (4)(a), and (7), F.S., relating to licensing standards for child care facilities, false personation, the Department of Law Enforcement, the Office of Safe Schools, and safe-school officers at each public school, respectively; providing effective dates.

Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

30.15 Powers, duties, and obligations.—

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

(k) Assist district school boards and charter school governing boards in complying with, or private schools or child care facilities, as defined in s. 402.302, in exercising options in, s. 1006.12. A sheriff must also assist public postsecondary educational institutions, as described in s. 1000.04(3), in implementing a guardian program under s. 1006.601. A sheriff shall, at a minimum, provide access to a Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to aid in the prevention or abatement of active assailant incidents on school premises, as required under this paragraph. Persons certified as school guardians pursuant to this paragraph have no authority to act in any law enforcement capacity except to the extent necessary to prevent or abate an active assailant incident.

1.a. If a local school board has voted by a majority to implement a guardian program or has contracted for the use of school security guards to satisfy the requirements of s. 1006.12, the sheriff in that county must establish a guardian program to provide training for school guardians or school security guards, pursuant to subparagraph 2., to meet the demand for the training of school district, charter school, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, child care facility, or security agency employees, either directly or through a contract with other ~~another~~ sheriff's offices ~~office~~ that have ~~has~~ established a guardian program. The security agency employing a school security guard is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

b. Upon the request of a private school, child care facility, public postsecondary educational institution, or ~~A~~ charter school governing board in a school district that has not implemented ~~voted, or has declined, to implement~~ a guardian program, ~~may request~~ the sheriff in the county must ~~to~~ establish a guardian training program or contract with other sheriff's offices that have established a guardian training program to meet demand for the ~~purpose of~~ training of ~~the~~ private school, child care facility, public postsecondary educational institution, or charter school employees or school security guards consistent with the requirements of subparagraph 2. ~~If the county sheriff denies the request, the charter school governing board may contract with a sheriff that has established a guardian program to provide such training.~~ The charter school governing board must notify the superintendent ~~and the sheriff~~ in the charter school's county of the contract prior to its execution. The security agency employing a school security guard is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school security guard, but such charges may not exceed the actual cost incurred by the sheriff to provide the training.

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~~c. A private school or child care facility in a school district that has not voted, or has declined, to implement a guardian program may request that the sheriff in the county of the private school or child care facility establish a guardian program for the purpose of training private school employees, child care facility employees, or school security guards. If the county sheriff denies the request, the private school or child care facility may contract with a sheriff from another county who has established a guardian program under subparagraph 2. to provide such training. The private school or child care facility must notify the sheriff in the private school's or child care facility's county of the contract with a sheriff from another county before its execution.~~ The private school, child care facility, or security agency is responsible for all training and screening-related costs for a school guardian program. The sheriff providing such training must ensure that any moneys paid by a private school, child care facility, or security agency are not commingled with any funds provided by the state to the sheriff as reimbursement for screening-related and training-related costs ~~of any school district or charter school employee~~.

c.~~d.~~ The training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. is a standardized statewide curriculum, and each sheriff providing such training shall adhere to the course of instruction specified in that sub-subparagraph. The costs for the training program shall be consistent with guidelines established by the Florida Sheriffs Association. This subparagraph does not prohibit a sheriff from providing additional training. Any additional training shall be provided at no cost to a private school, child care facility, or security agency. A school guardian or school security guard who has completed the training program required in sub-subparagraph 2.b. may not be required to attend another sheriff's training program pursuant to that sub-subparagraph unless there has been at least a 1-year break in his or her appointment as a guardian or employment by a security agency as a school security guard in a school.

d.~~e.~~ The sheriff conducting the training pursuant to subparagraph 2. for school district, ~~and~~ charter school, or public postsecondary educational institution employees will be reimbursed for screening-related and training-related costs and for providing a one-time stipend of $500 to each school guardian who participates in the school guardian program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

(I) Eighty hours of firearms instruction based on the Criminal Justice Standards and Training Commission's Law Enforcement Academy training model, which must include at least 10 percent but no more than 20 percent more rounds fired than associated with academy training. Program participants must achieve an 85 percent pass rate on the firearms training.

(II) Sixteen hours of instruction in precision pistol.

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

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

(V) Eight hours of instruction in defensive tactics.

(VI) Four hours of instruction in legal issues.

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

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

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

The sheriff who conducts the guardian training or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. shall issue a school guardian certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff, and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, as well as the training, certification, inspection, and qualification records of each school guardian certified by the sheriff. A person who is certified under this paragraph may serve as a school guardian under s. 1006.12(3) only if he or she is appointed by the applicable school district superintendent, charter school principal, public postsecondary educational institution president, private school head of school, or child care facility owner. A sheriff who conducts the training for a school security guard or waives the training requirements for a person under sub-subparagraph 1.g. and determines that the school security guard has met all the requirements of s. 1006.12(4) shall issue a school security guard certificate to persons who meet the requirements of this section to the satisfaction of the sheriff and shall maintain documentation of weapon and equipment inspections, training, certification, and qualification records for each school security guard certified by the sheriff.

3.a. Within 30 days after issuing a school guardian or school security guard certificate, the sheriff who issued the certificate must report to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and certification date of the school guardian or school security guard.

b. By February 1 and September 1 of each school year, each school district, charter school, employing security agency, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, and child care facility must report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the name, date of birth, and appointment date of each person appointed as a school guardian or employed as a school security guard. The school district, charter school, employing security agency, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, and child care facility must also report in the manner prescribed to the Department of Law Enforcement the date each school guardian or school security guard separates from his or her appointment as a school guardian or employment as a school security guard in a school.

c. The Department of Law Enforcement shall maintain a list of each person appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard in the state. The list must include the name and certification date of each school guardian and school security guard and the date the person was appointed as a school guardian or certified as a school security guard, including the name of the school district, charter school, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, or child care facility in which the school guardian is appointed, or the employing security agency of a school security guard, any information provided pursuant to s. 1006.12(5), and, if applicable, the date such person separated from his or her appointment as a

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school guardian or the last date a school security guard served in a school as of the last reporting date. The Department of Law Enforcement shall remove from the list any person whose training has expired pursuant to sub-subparagraph 1.d.

d. Each sheriff shall report on a quarterly basis to the Department of Law Enforcement the schedule for upcoming school guardian trainings, to include guardian trainings for school security guards, including the dates of the training, the training locations, a contact person to register for the training, and the class capacity. If no trainings are scheduled, the sheriff is not required to report to the Department of Law Enforcement. The Department of Law Enforcement shall publish on its website a list of the upcoming school guardian trainings. The Department of Law Enforcement shall update such list quarterly.

e. A sheriff who fails to report the information required by this subparagraph may not receive reimbursement from the Department of Education for school guardian trainings. Upon the submission of the required information, a sheriff is deemed eligible for such funding and is authorized to continue to receive reimbursement for school guardian training.

f. A school district, charter school, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, child care facility, or employing security agency that fails to report the information required by this subparagraph is prohibited from operating a school guardian program or employing school security guards in the following school year unless the missing information is provided.

g. By March 1 and October 1 of each school year, the Department of Law Enforcement shall notify the Department of Education of any sheriff, school district, charter school, public postsecondary educational institution, private school, or child care facility that has not complied with the reporting requirements of this subparagraph.

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

Section 2. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (d) of subsection (2) of section 790.115, Florida Statutes, is amended, and subsection (4) is added to that section, to read:

790.115 Possessing or discharging weapons or firearms at a school-sponsored event or on school property prohibited; penalties; exceptions.—

(2)

(d) A person commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084, if he or she: ~~who~~

1. Discharges any weapon or firearm while in violation of paragraph (a), unless discharged for lawful defense of himself or herself or another or for a lawful purpose; or,

2. Discharges any weapon or firearm within 1,000 feet of a school, during school hours or during the time of a sanctioned school activity, unless discharged for lawful defense of himself or herself or another or for a lawful purpose. This subparagraph does not apply to the discharge of a weapon or firearm on private real property within 1,000 feet of a school by the owner of such property or by a person whose presence on such property has been authorized, licensed, or invited by the owner ~~commits a felony of the second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084~~.

(4) A person arrested for a violation of paragraph (2)(d) must be held in custody until brought before the court for admittance to bail in accordance with chapter 903.

Section 3. Effective October 1, 2026, paragraph (f) of subsection (3) of section 921.0022, Florida Statutes, is amended to read:

921.0022 Criminal Punishment Code; offense severity ranking chart.—

(3) OFFENSE SEVERITY RANKING CHART

(f) LEVEL 6

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
316.027(2)(b)	2nd	Leaving the scene of a crash involving serious bodily injury.
316.193(2)(b)	3rd	Felony DUI, 4th or subsequent conviction.
316.1935(4)(a)	2nd	Aggravated fleeing or eluding.
327.30(5)(a)3.	2nd	Vessel accidents involving serious bodily injury; leaving scene.
400.9935(4)(c)	2nd	Operating a clinic, or offering services requiring licensure, without a license.
499.0051(2)	2nd	Knowing forgery of transaction history, transaction information, or transaction statement.
499.0051(3)	2nd	Knowing purchase or receipt of prescription drug from unauthorized person.
499.0051(4)	2nd	Knowing sale or transfer of prescription drug to unauthorized person.
775.0875(1)	3rd	Taking firearm from law enforcement officer.

Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
784.021(1)(a)	3rd	Aggravated assault; deadly weapon without intent to kill.
784.021(1)(b)	3rd	Aggravated assault; intent to commit felony.
784.041	3rd	Felony battery; domestic battery by strangulation.
784.048(3)	3rd	Aggravated stalking; credible threat.
784.048(5)	3rd	Aggravated stalking of person under 16.
784.07(2)(c)	2nd	Aggravated assault on law enforcement officer.
784.074(1)(b)	2nd	Aggravated assault on sexually violent predators facility staff.
784.08(2)(b)	2nd	Aggravated assault on a person 65 years of age or older.
784.081(2)	2nd	Aggravated assault on specified official or employee.
784.082(2)	2nd	Aggravated assault by detained person on visitor or other detainee.
784.083(2)	2nd	Aggravated assault on code inspector.
787.02(2)	3rd	False imprisonment; restraining with purpose other than those in s. 787.01.
787.025(2)(a)	3rd	Luring or enticing a child.
790.115(2)(d)	2nd	Discharging firearm or weapon on school property or within 1,000 feet of a school.
790.161(2)	2nd	Make, possess, or throw destructive device with intent to do bodily harm or damage property.
790.164(1)	2nd	False report concerning bomb, explosive, weapon of mass destruction, act of arson or violence to state property, or use of firearms in violent manner.
790.19	2nd	Shooting or throwing deadly missiles into dwellings, vessels, or vehicles.
794.011(8)(a)	3rd	Solicitation of minor to participate in sexual activity by custodial adult.

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Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
794.05(1)	2nd	Unlawful sexual activity with specified minor.
800.04(5)(d)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious molestation; victim 12 years of age or older but less than 16 years of age; offender less than 18 years.
800.04(6)(b)	2nd	Lewd or lascivious conduct; offender 18 years of age or older.
806.031(2)	2nd	Arson resulting in great bodily harm to firefighter or any other person.
810.02(3)(c)	2nd	Burglary of occupied structure; unarmed; no assault or battery.
810.145(8)(b)	2nd	Digital voyeurism; certain minor victims; 2nd or subsequent offense.
812.014(2)(b)1.	2nd	Property stolen $20,000 or more, but less than $100,000, grand theft in 2nd degree.
812.014(2)(c)5.	3rd	Grand theft; third degree; firearm.
812.014(6)	2nd	Theft; property stolen $3,000 or more; coordination of others.
812.015(9)(a)	2nd	Retail theft; property stolen $750 or more; second or subsequent conviction.
812.015(9)(b)	2nd	Retail theft; aggregated property stolen within 120 days is $3,000 or more; coordination of others.
812.015(9)(d)	2nd	Retail theft; multiple thefts within specified period.
812.015(9)(e)	2nd	Retail theft; committed with specified number of other persons and use of social media platform.
812.13(2)(c)	2nd	Robbery, no firearm or other weapon (strong-arm robbery).
817.4821(5)	2nd	Possess cloning paraphernalia with intent to create cloned cellular telephones.
817.49(2)(b)2.	2nd	Willful making of a false report of a crime resulting in death.
817.505(4)(b)	2nd	Patient brokering; 10 or more patients.

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Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
817.5695(3)(b)	2nd	Exploitation of person 65 years of age or older, value $10,000 or more, but less than $50,000.
825.102(1)	3rd	Abuse of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.102(3)(c)	3rd	Neglect of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.1025(3)	3rd	Lewd or lascivious molestation of an elderly person or disabled adult.
825.103(3)(c)	3rd	Exploiting an elderly person or disabled adult and property is valued at less than $10,000.
827.03(2)(c)	3rd	Abuse of a child.
827.03(2)(d)	3rd	Neglect of a child.
827.071(5)	3rd	Possess, control, or intentionally view any photographic material, motion picture, etc., which includes child pornography.
828.126(3)	3rd	Sexual activities involving animals.
836.05	2nd	Threats; extortion.
836.10	2nd	Written or electronic threats to kill, do bodily injury, or conduct a mass shooting or an act of terrorism.
843.12	3rd	Aids or assists person to escape.
847.011	3rd	Distributing, offering to distribute, or possessing with intent to distribute obscene materials depicting minors.
847.012	3rd	Knowingly using a minor in the production of materials harmful to minors.
847.0135(2)	3rd	Facilitates sexual conduct of or with a minor or the visual depiction of such conduct.
893.131	2nd	Distribution of controlled substances resulting in overdose or serious bodily injury.
914.23	2nd	Retaliation against a witness, victim, or informant, with bodily injury.
918.13(2)(b)	2nd	Tampering with or fabricating physical evidence relating to a capital felony.

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Florida Statute	Felony Degree	Description
944.35(3)(a)2.	3rd	Committing malicious battery upon or inflicting cruel or inhuman treatment on an inmate or offender on community supervision, resulting in great bodily harm.
944.40	2nd	Escapes.
944.46	3rd	Harboring, concealing, aiding escaped prisoners.
944.47(1)(a)5.	2nd	Introduction of contraband (firearm, weapon, or explosive) into correctional facility.
951.22(1)(i)	3rd	Firearm or weapon introduced into county detention facility.

Section 4. Paragraph (a) of subsection (4) of section 943.082, Florida Statutes, is amended, and paragraph (c) is added to that subsection, to read:

943.082 School Safety Awareness Program.—

(4)(a) Law enforcement dispatch centers, school districts, schools, postsecondary institutions, and other entities identified by the department must be made aware of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool.

(c) Each public postsecondary educational institution, as defined in s. 1000.04(3), that does not have an existing public safety reporting application as of July 1, 2026, shall promote the use of the mobile suspicious activity reporting tool by advertising it on the institution website, by installing it on all mobile devices issued by the institution, and by bookmarking the website on all computer devices maintained by the institution.

Section 5. Subsection (4) is added to section 1003.25, Florida Statutes, and subsection (2) of that section is republished, to read:

1003.25 Procedures for maintenance and transfer of student records.—

(2) The procedure for transferring and maintaining records of students who transfer from school to school is prescribed by rules of the State Board of Education. The transfer of records must occur within 5 school days. The records must include, if applicable:

(a) Verified reports of serious or recurrent behavior patterns, including any threat assessment report, all corresponding documentation, and any other information required by the Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) which contains the evaluation, intervention, and management of the threat assessment evaluations and intervention services.

(b) Psychological evaluations, including therapeutic treatment plans and therapy or progress notes created or maintained by school district or charter school staff, as appropriate.

(4) When the education records of a student contain the documents described in subsection (2) and the student enrolls in a Florida College System institution or state university, such records must be transferred to his or her institution or university of enrollment. The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors shall adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to establish the procedures for the transfer of a student's threat assessment report pursuant to this subsection.

Section 6. Paragraph (a) of subsection (6) and paragraph (g) of subsection (7) of section 1006.07, Florida Statutes, are amended to read:

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

(6) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—Each district school superintendent shall establish policies and procedures for the prevention of violence on school grounds, including the assessment of and intervention with individuals whose behavior poses a threat to the safety of the school community.

(a) School safety specialist.—Each district school superintendent shall designate a school safety specialist for the district. The school safety specialist must be a school administrator employed by the school district or a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office located in the school district. Any school safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office must first be authorized and approved by the sheriff employing the law enforcement officer. Any school safety specialist designated from the sheriff's office remains the employee of the office for purposes of compensation, insurance, workers' compensation, and other benefits authorized by law for a law enforcement officer employed by the sheriff's office. The sheriff and the school superintendent may determine by agreement the reimbursement for such costs, or may share the costs, associated with employment of the law enforcement officer as a school safety specialist. The school safety specialist must earn a certificate of completion of the school safety specialist training provided by the Office of Safe Schools within 1 year after appointment and is responsible for the supervision and oversight for all school safety and security personnel, policies, and procedures in the school district. The school safety specialist, or his or her designee, shall:

1. In conjunction with the district school superintendent, annually review school district policies and procedures for compliance with state law and rules, including the district's timely and accurate submission of school environmental safety incident reports to the department pursuant to

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s. 1001.212(8). At least quarterly, the school safety specialist must report to the district school superintendent and the district school board any noncompliance by the school district with laws or rules regarding school safety.

2. Provide the necessary training and resources to students and school district staff in matters relating to youth mental health awareness and assistance; emergency procedures, including active shooter training; and school safety and security. Such training for classroom teachers and other members of instructional staff must explain the purpose, importance, and proper execution of school safety protocols and emergency procedures.

3. Serve as the school district liaison with local public safety agencies and national, state, and community agencies and organizations in matters of school safety and security.

4. In collaboration with the appropriate public safety agencies, as that term is defined in s. 365.171, by October 1 of each year, conduct a school security risk assessment at each public school using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1006.1493. Based on the assessment findings, the district's school safety specialist shall provide recommendations to the district school superintendent and the district school board which identify strategies and activities that the district school board should implement in order to address the findings and improve school safety and security. Each district school board must receive such findings and the school safety specialist's recommendations at a publicly noticed district school board meeting to provide the public an opportunity to hear the district school board members discuss and take action on the findings and recommendations. Each school safety specialist, through the district school superintendent, shall report such findings and school board action to the Office of Safe Schools within 30 days after the district school board meeting.

5. Conduct annual unannounced inspections, using the form adopted by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1001.212(13), of all public schools, including charter schools, while school is in session and investigate reports of noncompliance with school safety requirements.

6. Report violations of paragraph (f) by administrative personnel and instructional personnel to the district school superintendent or charter school administrator, as applicable.

(7) THREAT MANAGEMENT TEAMS.—Each district school board and charter school governing board shall establish a threat management team at each school whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the school, school staff, or students.

(g) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, all state and local agencies and programs that provide services to students experiencing or at

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risk of an emotional disturbance or a mental illness, including the school districts, charter schools, school personnel, state universities, Florida College System institutions, state and local law enforcement agencies, the Department of Juvenile Justice, the Department of Children and Families, the Department of Health, the Agency for Health Care Administration, the Agency for Persons with Disabilities, the Department of Education, the Statewide Guardian ad Litem Office, and any service or support provider contracting with such agencies, may share with each other records or information that are confidential or exempt from disclosure under chapter 119 if the records or information are reasonably necessary to ensure access to appropriate services for the student or to ensure the safety of the student or others. All such state and local agencies and programs shall communicate, collaborate, and coordinate efforts to serve such students.

Section 7. Section 1006.601, Florida Statutes, is created to read:

1006.601 Active Response and Mitigation of On-Campus Risks (ARMOR) Act.—

(1) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Active Response and Mitigation of On-Campus Risks (ARMOR) Act."

(2) DEFINITION.—As used in this section, the term "public postsecondary educational institution" has the same meaning as in s. 1000.04(3).

(3) SCHOOL GUARDIANS.—

(a) Public postsecondary educational institutions are authorized to participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program and may appoint certified school guardians pursuant to s. 30.15(1)(k).

(b) An employee or faculty member, who is not a student, of a public postsecondary educational institution may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a sheriff.

(4) SAFETY AND SECURITY BEST PRACTICES.—

(a) Response plans.—Each public postsecondary educational institution shall:

1. Adopt an active assailant response plan, which shall include methods for issuing emergency notifications pursuant to 20 U.S.C. s. 1092(f), and annually certify that all faculty, staff, and students have completed active assailant preparedness training. The plan must clearly identify all personnel who may issue such emergency notifications.

2. Adopt, in cooperation with local law enforcement agencies and local government, a family reunification plan to reunite students and employees

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with their families in the event that an institution is closed or unexpectedly evacuated due to a natural or manmade disaster. This reunification plan must be reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

(b) Student mental health.—Each public postsecondary educational institution shall:

1. Train faculty to detect and respond to mental health issues as well as connect students who may experience behavioral health issues with appropriate services, both on campus and in the community, including crisis intervention.

2. Post on its website and in conspicuous locations at each institution a mental health awareness and suicide prevention sign that identifies ways a person can access help and services. Physical signs must be at least 11 inches by 15 inches in size and must be printed in an easily legible font and in at least 32-point type.

3. Establish threat management teams whose duties include the coordination of resources and assessment and intervention with students whose behavior may pose a threat to the safety of the institution, institution staff, or students. The threat management team must use the statewide behavioral threat management operational process and Florida-specific behavioral threat assessment instrument developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1001.212(11) or another comparable tool deemed appropriate for postsecondary institutions by the State Board of Education and Board of Governors.

The Commissioner of Education and the Chancellor of the State University System shall provide guidance on when and how administrators, mental health providers, and other appropriate personnel are legally entitled to share and receive information about individuals who may be a threat to themselves or others, including, but not limited to, the transmission of education records pursuant to s. 1003.25(4).

(c) Security risk assessment.—Each public postsecondary educational institution, in collaboration with appropriate public safety agencies, as defined in s. 365.171(3)(d), shall annually conduct a security risk assessment at each campus using the Florida Safe Schools Assessment Tool developed by the Office of Safe Schools pursuant to s. 1006.1493 or another comparable tool deemed appropriate for postsecondary institutions by the State Board of Education and Board of Governors. Subject to an appropriation, the institution may apply for grant funds for security improvements to its campus based on findings in the security risk assessment.

(d) Student, faculty, and staff supports.—Each public postsecondary educational institution must adopt policies and procedures to support students, faculty, and staff who are the victims of an incident constituting an act of violence or an attempted act of violence or who are subjected to a credible threat as defined in s. 784.048(1)(c). The policies shall:

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1. Outline the supports available to affected persons, which may include work or class relocation, security escorts, and restricting access to certain areas by individuals who created the incident.

2. Provide for timely updates to an affected person regarding any action taken by the institution in response to the incident.

(5) RULES AND REGULATIONS.—The State Board of Education and the Board of Governors may adopt rules and regulations, respectively, to implement this section.

Section 8. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (19) of section 402.305, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

402.305 Licensing standards; child care facilities.—

(19) SAFE-SCHOOL OFFICERS.—

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

Section 9. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, section 843.08, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

843.08 False personation.—A person who falsely assumes or pretends to be a firefighter, a sheriff, an officer of the Florida Highway Patrol, an officer of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, an officer of the Department of Environmental Protection, an officer of the Department of Financial Services, any personnel or representative of the Division of Criminal Investigations, an officer of the Department of Corrections, a correctional probation officer, a deputy sheriff, a state attorney or an assistant state attorney, a statewide prosecutor or an assistant statewide prosecutor, a state attorney investigator, a coroner, a police officer, a lottery special agent or lottery investigator, a beverage enforcement agent, a school guardian as described in s. 30.15(1)(k), a security officer licensed under chapter 493, any member of the Florida Commission on Offender Review or any administrative aide or supervisor employed by the commission, any personnel or representative of the Department of Law Enforcement, or a federal law enforcement officer as defined in s. 901.1505, and takes upon himself or herself to act as such, or to require any other person to aid or assist him or her in a matter pertaining to the duty of any such officer, commits a felony of the third degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. However, a person who falsely personates any such officer during the course of the commission of a felony commits a felony of the

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second degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. If the commission of the felony results in the death or personal injury of another human being, the person commits a felony of the first degree, punishable as provided in s. 775.082, s. 775.083, or s. 775.084. In determining whether a defendant has violated this section, the court or jury may consider any relevant evidence, including, but not limited to, whether the defendant used lights in violation of s. 316.2397 or s. 843.081.

Section 10. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, subsection (16) of section 943.03, Florida Statutes, is reenacted to read:

943.03 Department of Law Enforcement.—

(16) Upon request, the department shall consult with sheriffs to provide input regarding programmatic guiding principles, practices, and resources in order to assist in the development and implementation of the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program established pursuant to s. 30.15. Such input and guidance may include, but need not be limited to, standards, curriculum, instructional strategies, evaluation, certification, records retention, equipment, and other resource needs.

Section 11. For the purpose of incorporating the amendments made by this act to sections 943.082 and 1006.07, Florida Statutes, in references thereto, subsections (1), (4), and (10) of section 1001.212, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

1001.212 Office of Safe Schools.—There is created in the Department of Education the Office of Safe Schools. The office is fully accountable to the Commissioner of Education. The office shall serve as a central repository for best practices, training standards, and compliance oversight in all matters regarding school safety and security, including prevention efforts, intervention efforts, and emergency preparedness planning. The office shall:

(1) Establish and update as necessary a school security risk assessment tool for use by school districts pursuant to s. 1006.07(6). The office shall make the security risk assessment tool available for use by charter schools. The office shall provide annual training to appropriate school district and charter school personnel on the proper assessment of physical site security and completion of the school security risk assessment tool.

(4) Develop and implement a School Safety Specialist Training Program for school safety specialists appointed pursuant to s. 1006.07(6). The office shall develop the training program which shall be based on national and state best practices on school safety and security and must include active shooter training. The office shall develop training modules in traditional or online formats. A school safety specialist certificate of completion shall be awarded to a school safety specialist who satisfactorily completes the training required by rules of the office.

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(10) Disseminate, in consultation with the Department of Law Enforcement, to participating schools awareness and education materials on the proper use of the School Safety Awareness Program developed pursuant to s. 943.082, including the consequences of knowingly submitting false information.

Section 12. For the purpose of incorporating the amendment made by this act to section 30.15, Florida Statutes, in a reference thereto, paragraph (a) of subsection (3), paragraph (a) of subsection (4), and subsection (7) of section 1006.12, Florida Statutes, are reenacted to read:

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

(3) SCHOOL GUARDIAN.—

(a) At the school district's or the charter school governing board's discretion, as applicable, pursuant to s. 30.15, a school district or charter school governing board may participate in the Chris Hixon, Coach Aaron Feis, and Coach Scott Beigel Guardian Program to meet the requirement of establishing a safe-school officer. The following individuals may serve as a school guardian, in support of school-sanctioned activities for purposes of s. 790.115, upon satisfactory completion of the requirements under s. 30.15(1)(k) and certification by a sheriff:

1. A school district employee or personnel, as defined under s. 1012.01, or a charter school employee, as provided under s. 1002.33(12)(a), who volunteers to serve as a school guardian in addition to his or her official job duties; or

2. An employee of a school district or a charter school who is hired for the specific purpose of serving as a school guardian.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(7) LIMITATIONS.—An individual must satisfy the background screening, psychological evaluation, and drug test requirements and be approved by the sheriff before participating in any training required by s. 30.15(1)(k), which may be conducted only by a sheriff.

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

Section 13. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this act, this act shall take effect upon becoming a law.

Approved by the Governor May 15, 2026.

Filed in Office Secretary of State May 15, 2026.

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