



# 131st MAINE LEGISLATURE

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

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Legislative Document

No. 892

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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**

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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'.

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.

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

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

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

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

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

34 **SUMMARY**

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