

## **131st MAINE LEGISLATURE**

## FIRST REGULAR SESSION-2023

**Legislative Document** 

No. 477

H.P. 294

House of Representatives, February 7, 2023

Resolve, Directing the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to Convene a Stakeholder Group to Develop Best Practices for Lockdown Drills and Allowing Parents to Opt Out of Lockdown Drills for Their Children

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

R(+ B. Hunt

ROBERT B. HUNT Clerk

Presented by Representative MILLETT of Cape Elizabeth. Cosponsored by Senator CARNEY of Cumberland and Representatives: DODGE of Belfast, DOUDERA of Camden, GRAMLICH of Old Orchard Beach, SACHS of Freeport, ZAGER of Portland, Senator: INGWERSEN of York. 1 **Sec. 1. Stakeholder group. Resolved:** That the Department of Education, Maine 2 School Safety Center shall convene a stakeholder group to develop best practices for 3 lockdown drills implemented by school administrative units to minimize traumatic impact 4 on students and school staff, including but not limited to representatives of:

- 1. The Maine School Superintendents Association;
- 6 2. The Maine School Boards Association;
- 7 3. The Maine Principals' Association;

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- 8 4. The Maine Education Association;
- 9 5. The Maine Chiefs of Police Association;
- 10 6. The Maine State Parent Teacher Association;
- 11 7. The Maine Parent Federation;
- 12 8. The Maine School Counselor Association; and
- 13 9. The American Academy of Pediatrics, Maine Chapter.

14 By January 1, 2024, the department shall report to the Joint Standing Committee on 15 Education and Cultural Affairs on the work of the stakeholder group, specifically regarding the best practices for lockdown drills and a plan for all school staff to be trained in their 16 school administrative unit's emergency plan prior to January 1, 2025, but also including an 17 evaluation of the effectiveness of the range of lockdown drills as implemented by public 18 19 schools at increasing safety, the traumatic impact of lockdown drills on students and school 20 staff, the number of school administrative units using best practices for lockdown drills and 21 other strategies to ensure students and school staff are prepared to respond to emergencies, 22 including school shootings. The joint standing committee may report out a bill to the 23 Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature to implement the recommendations of the stakeholder group. 24

Sec. 2. Rule amendment. Resolved: That the Department of Education shall
 amend its rule Chapter 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School
 Administrative Units, Section 5.17 to allow parents to opt out of lockdown drills for their
 child. Rules adopted pursuant to this section are routine technical rules as defined in the
 Maine Revised Statutes, Title 5, chapter 375, subchapter 2-A.

SUMMARY

31 This resolve directs the Department of Education, Maine School Safety Center to 32 convene a stakeholder group to develop best practices for lockdown drills implemented by 33 school administrative units to minimize traumatic impact on students and staff. It requires the department to report to the Joint Standing Committee on Education and Cultural Affairs 34 35 on the work of the stakeholder group, specifically regarding the best practices for lockdown 36 drills and a plan for all school staff to be trained in their school administrative unit's 37 emergency plan prior to January 1, 2025, but also including an evaluation of the 38 effectiveness of the range of lockdown drills as implemented by public schools at 39 increasing safety, the traumatic impact of lockdown drills on students and school staff, the 40 number of school administrative units using best practices for lockdown drills and other 41 strategies to ensure students and school staff are prepared to respond to emergencies,

- including school shootings. The joint standing committee is authorized to report out a bill
  to the Second Regular Session of the 131st Legislature to implement the recommendations
- 2 to the Second Regular Session3 of the stakeholder group.
- 4 It also directs the department to adopt routine technical rules amending rule Chapter
- 5 125: Basic Approval Standards: Public Schools and School Administrative Units, Section
- 6 5.17 to allow parents to opt out of lockdown drills for their child.