

HOUSE SUBSTITUTE FOR  
SENATE BILL NO. 374

A bill to create the student safety act; to provide for confidential reports of potential harm or criminal activities directed at school students, school employees, and schools; to establish a hotline for filing those reports; to create the student safety fund and to provide for contributions to and expenditures from that fund; to prescribe the powers and duties of certain state officials and departments; to provide for procedures for the release of certain confidential information; to prescribe penalties; and to repeal acts and parts or acts.

**THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:**

1           Sec. 1. This act shall be known and may be cited as the  
2 "student safety act".

1           Sec. 2. As used in this act:

2           (a) "Department" means the department of the attorney general.

3           (b) "Fund" means the student safety fund created in section 7.

4           (c) "Hotline" means a statewide toll-free telephone number or  
5 other means of communication, or a combination of a toll-free  
6 telephone number and another means of communication, that transmits  
7 voice, text, photographic, and other messages and information to a  
8 vendor described in section 3(3), including information forwarded  
9 to that vendor through the departmental website described in  
10 section 3(2).

11           (d) "School" means a public, private, denominational, or  
12 parochial school offering developmental kindergarten, kindergarten,  
13 or any grade from 1 through 12, regardless of whether school is in  
14 session. School includes all school property.

15           (e) "School employee" means a full-time or part-time employee  
16 of a school, school district, or intermediate school district,  
17 including a school administrator, a volunteer with a school, school  
18 district, or intermediate school district, or any other person who  
19 provides services to a school, school district, or intermediate  
20 school district while he or she is on school property. A person  
21 described in this subdivision is considered a school employee  
22 regardless of whether school is in session.

23           (f) "School property" means a building, playing field, or  
24 property used for school purposes to impart instruction to school  
25 students or used for school purposes, functions, and events,  
26 regardless of whether school is in session. School property  
27 includes a school bus as that term is defined in section 57 of the

1 Michigan vehicle code, 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.57.

2 (g) "School student" means a person who is enrolled as a  
3 student in a school regardless of whether school is in session.

4 Sec. 3. (1) The department, in consultation with the  
5 department of state police, the department of community health, and  
6 the department of education shall, to the extent that funds are  
7 appropriated for the purpose, establish a program for receiving  
8 reports and other information from the public regarding potential  
9 self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts directed at school  
10 students, school employees, or schools in this state. The department  
11 shall establish the program within the guidelines of this act. The  
12 department shall have access to the information needed to meet the  
13 reporting requirements of section 8.

14 (2) The program described in subsection (1) shall include a  
15 hotline for receiving reports and information described in  
16 subsection (1). The hotline shall be available for use 24 hours a  
17 day, 365 days a year. The department may provide promotional  
18 information regarding the program on its departmental website.

19 (3) Prior to operation of the hotline, the department of  
20 technology, management, and budget shall issue a request for  
21 proposals to enter into a contract for operation of the hotline.  
22 The department of technology, management, and budget shall have  
23 sole authority over the request for proposals process and the  
24 decision over which entity is awarded the contract. This subsection  
25 does not prohibit the department of state police from submitting a  
26 proposal. Any contract shall require the vendor to be bound by the  
27 requirements of this act, including its confidentiality provisions.

1 Beginning on the date that the hotline established under this act  
2 is operational, all calls received by any existing state-run school  
3 violence hotline in operation prior to the establishment of this  
4 act shall be directed to the hotline established under this act.  
5 Any existing state-run school violence hotline in operation prior  
6 to the effective date of this act shall be disconnected within 6  
7 months after the hotline established under this act is operational.

8 (4) The department shall be responsible for the continued  
9 operational and administrative oversight of the program. The  
10 program shall provide for a means to review all information  
11 submitted through the hotline and to direct those reports and that  
12 information, including any analysis of the potential threat as  
13 determined appropriate by the department or a vendor under contract  
14 with the department to local law enforcement officials and school  
15 officials. The program shall include a means by which responses at  
16 the local level are determined and evaluated for effectiveness. The  
17 department shall ensure that appropriate training is provided to  
18 program personnel in all of the following areas:

19 (a) Crisis management, including recognizing mental illness  
20 and emotional disturbance.

21 (b) The resources that are available in the community for  
22 providing mental health treatment and other human services.

23 (c) Other matters determined by the department to be relevant  
24 to the administration and operation of the program.

25 (5) A report or other information submitted to the hotline is  
26 considered to be a report to a law enforcement agency and shall be  
27 maintained as a record by the vendor described in section 3(3) for

1 at least 1 year, subject to the confidentiality requirements of  
2 this act.

3 (6) The department shall ensure that any hotline information  
4 that suggests that a psychiatric emergency is taking place within a  
5 county is immediately referred to the community mental health  
6 services program psychiatric crisis line for that county.

7 (7) The department shall develop a source of information on  
8 available community mental health resources and contacts, including  
9 mental health services. The department shall notify schools and law  
10 enforcement of this information source. The notice shall include  
11 the departmental recommendation that school and law enforcement,  
12 upon investigating a case and determining that mental illness or  
13 emotional disturbance is or may be involved, utilize this  
14 information in aiding subjects and their parents or guardians.

15 Sec. 4. (1) Any report or information submitted to the hotline  
16 under section 3 is confidential, shall not be released except as  
17 otherwise provided in this act, and is not subject to disclosure  
18 under the freedom of information act, 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to  
19 15.246.

20 (2) Any report or information submitted to the hotline and  
21 forwarded by the vendor described in section 3(3) under this act to  
22 a law enforcement official or to a school official is confidential,  
23 shall not be released except as otherwise provided in this act, and  
24 is not subject to disclosure under the freedom of information act,  
25 1976 PA 442, MCL 15.231 to 15.246.

26 (3) A person who intentionally discloses information to  
27 another person in violation of subsection (1) or (2) is guilty of a

1 misdemeanor punishable by imprisonment for not more than 90 days or  
2 a fine of not more than \$500.00, or both.

3 (4) If a report to the hotline does not result in a referral,  
4 or the investigation of a subject results in a determination that  
5 no action regarding that subject is warranted, the subject's name  
6 shall be expunged from the records of all entities involved in the  
7 hotline program except as otherwise provided by law.

8 Sec. 5. Information regarding a report or information  
9 submitted to the hotline under section 3, including any identifying  
10 information, may be disclosed as follows:

11 (a) By either of the following as necessary for purposes of  
12 this act and as necessary to address reports and information  
13 received under this act:

14 (i) A vendor described under section 3(3) and its employees  
15 acting in the course of their duties.

16 (ii) By the department, law enforcement agencies, schools, and  
17 community mental health service programs, and their employees  
18 acting in the course of their duties. However, this subparagraph  
19 does not allow the disclosure of information that would identify  
20 the person who submitted the report or information to the hotline  
21 under section 3.

22 (b) With the permission of the person or, if the person is a  
23 minor, with the permission of the minor and his or her parents or  
24 guardians.

25 (c) Pursuant to a court order issued under section 6.

26 Sec. 6. (1) A person who is charged with a criminal offense as  
27 a result of a report or information filed under section 3 may

1 petition the court for disclosure of the report or information,  
2 including any identifying information, as provided in this  
3 subsection. The prosecuting attorney for the local unit of  
4 government having jurisdiction and the attorney general shall be  
5 notified of the petition not less than 7 days before the hearing on  
6 the petition, or as otherwise provided by the court, and have the  
7 right to appear in the proceedings to oppose the petition. If a  
8 petition is filed under this subsection, the court may conduct a  
9 hearing on the petition. If a hearing is conducted, it shall be  
10 conducted in chambers outside of the presence of the petitioner. If  
11 the court determines that the report or information, including any  
12 identifying information, is relevant to the criminal proceedings  
13 and is essential to the fair trial of the person, the court may  
14 order the disclosure of that report or information, including any  
15 identifying information, as determined appropriate by the court.  
16 The court may place restrictions on the release and use of the  
17 report or information, including any identifying information,  
18 obtained under this subsection or may redact material as it  
19 considers appropriate. Material reviewed by the court that is not  
20 ordered released or that is redacted shall be maintained by the  
21 court under seal for purposes of appeal only.

22 (2) If the prosecuting attorney for a local unit of government  
23 has reason to believe that a report or other information provided  
24 under section 3 was falsely provided to the vendor described in  
25 section 3(3) through the hotline operated by that vendor under  
26 section 3, that prosecuting attorney may petition the court to  
27 disclose the report or information, including any identifying

1 information. The attorney general shall be notified of the petition  
2 not less than 7 days before the hearing on the petition, or as  
3 otherwise provided by the court, and has the right to appear in the  
4 proceedings to oppose the petition. If the court determines that  
5 there is reason to believe that the report or information may have  
6 been falsely provided, the court may order the disclosure of the  
7 report or information, including any identifying information, as  
8 determined appropriate by the court. The court may place  
9 restrictions on the release and use of the report or information,  
10 including any identifying information, obtained under this  
11 subsection or may redact material as it considers appropriate.  
12 Material reviewed by the court that is not ordered released or that  
13 is redacted shall be maintained by the court under seal for  
14 purposes of appeal only.

15 (3) The attorney general may also appear in any other action  
16 to oppose the release of any report or information obtained under  
17 section 3, including any identifying information.

18 Sec. 7. (1) The student safety fund is created within the  
19 state treasury.

20 (2) The state treasurer may receive money or other assets from  
21 any source for deposit into the fund. The state treasurer shall  
22 credit to the fund interest and earnings from fund investments.

23 (3) Money in the fund at the close of the fiscal year shall  
24 remain in the fund and shall not lapse to the general fund.

25 (4) The department shall be the administrator of the fund for  
26 auditing purposes.

27 (5) The department may expend money from the fund, upon



1 appropriation, only for 1 or more of the following purposes:

2 (a) To pay the costs of the department for administering this  
3 act.

4 (b) To pay the costs of the vendor described in section 3(3)  
5 for operating the hotline under that section.

6 (c) To promote public awareness of the program, including the  
7 availability of the hotline and the website operated by the  
8 department.

9 (6) Money shall not be expended for any promotion program that  
10 includes a reference to, or the image or voice of, an elected  
11 official, appointed state employee, state employee governed by a  
12 senior executive service limited term employment agreement, or a  
13 candidate for elective office, that is targeted to a media market  
14 in this state.

15 Sec. 8. The department, in consultation with the department of  
16 community health, the department of education, and the vendor  
17 described in section 3(3), shall prepare an annual report under  
18 this act. The report shall be filed not later than July 31 of the  
19 year in which the report is due. Copies of the report shall be  
20 filed with the governor, the secretary of the senate, the clerk of  
21 the house of representatives, the clerk of the senate standing  
22 committee on appropriations, and the clerk of the house standing  
23 committee on appropriations. The report shall also be maintained on  
24 the department's website. The report shall contain all of the  
25 following information:

26 (a) The number of reports and other information reported to  
27 the hotline under this act.

1 (b) The number of reports and information reported to the  
2 hotline that are forwarded to local law enforcement officials and  
3 school officials.

4 (c) The number of hotline reports resulting in referral to  
5 mental health services.

6 (d) The nature of the reports and information reported to the  
7 hotline in categories established by the department.

8 (e) The responses to the reports and information reported to  
9 the hotline at the local level in categories established by the  
10 department.

11 (f) The source of all funds deposited in the student safety  
12 fund.

13 (g) The itemized costs and expenditures incurred by the  
14 department in implementing this act.

15 (h) The itemized costs and expenditures incurred by the  
16 department of state police in implementing this act.

17 (i) The contributions of, and the costs and expenditures  
18 incurred by, the vendor with whom the department enters into a  
19 contract under section 3(3).

20 (j) An analysis of the overall effectiveness of the program in  
21 addressing potential self-harm and potential harm or criminal acts  
22 directed at schools, school employees, and school students.

23 Enacting section 1. This act is repealed effective October 1,  
24 2017.