

REVENUE: No revenue impact

FISCAL: Fiscal statement issued

Action:	Do Pass as Amended and Be Printed Engrossed and Be Referred to the Committee on Ways and Means by Prior Reference
Vote:	6 - 0 - 1
Yeas:	Boone, Esquivel, Huffman, Parrish, Witt, Matthews
Nays:	0
Exc.:	Fagan
Prepared By:	Cheyenne Ross, Administrator
Meeting Dates:	2/4, 2/13

WHAT THE MEASURE DOES: Establishes 14-member task force on school safety comprised of two nonvoting legislators (one Senator, one Representative), an Oregon State Police representative (OSP), a Department of Public Safety Standards and Training representative, and 10 others from or appointed by Governor’ office. Sets forth areas of task force concern, including establishment, maintenance and use of database by OSP containing floor plans of all Oregon schools; development of coordinated statewide training for school personnel with other first responders; and studying efficacy of standardized incident response. Directs task force organization to mirror legislative model. Requires reports to judiciary legislative committee: on school floor plan database by September 1, 2014; and on training and standardized incident response by October 1, 2015. Requires OSP provide task force staff and travel expenses. Appropriates general funds to OSP for task force purposes. Sunsets task force upon convening of 2017 legislative session. Declares emergency, effective on passage.

ISSUES DISCUSSED:

- Support of law enforcement across jurisdictions
- Lagging/disconnected status of preparation compared to other states
- Need to bring schools and law enforcement together
- Need for school s and law enforcement entities to discuss best practices; pros and cons of standardized incident response versus customized incident response; and need for improved communications
- Teacher groups and parent groups desire to participate, potentially prematurely

EFFECT OF COMMITTEE AMENDMENT: Adds member of Oregon School Employees Association to task force. Broadens reference to school personnel from “administration officials” to “employees.”

BACKGROUND: Tragedies on school grounds go back in history a hundred years, but can be distinguished from incidents of the past two decades, due to features such as the orchestration of an horrific demonstrative act by a shooter or shooters prior to suicide, and the immediate transmission of events via modern technology. The incident at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado, on April 20, 1999, is often cited as responsible for raising the nation’s consciousness with regard to tragedies on school grounds, but a number of other states had already experienced similar tragedies in the mid and late 1990s, without the same media exposure, including the loss of two students and the wounding of 22 others, at Thurston High School in Springfield, Oregon, on May 21, 1998.

House Bill 4087A, along with a variety of other legislation, has been spurred by fairly recent mass tragedies, going beyond school grounds, around the country and here at home, including: a theatre shooting in Aurora, Colorado, July 20, 2012; a shooting at Clackamas Town Center, in Happy Valley, Oregon, December 11, 2012; and a mass shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, Connecticut, December 14, 2012.

Schools and first responders around the state may not always be on the same page when it comes to planning coordinated incident response; may or may not be sharing information with each other or with other jurisdictions or with other states; may or may not be in agreement as to best practices; and may be in various stages of completion of such planning, school by school, agency by agency. An entire state's emergency response resources are brought to bear when mass tragedies occur, and adequate planning is critical to the success of that response.

House Bill 4087A creates a task force to consider these issues and move Oregon's school safety planning forward.