A-Bill for an Act
Relating to school safety; creating new provisions; amending ORS 336.071; and declaring an emergency.

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

SECTION 1. ORS 336.071 is amended to read:

336.071. (1) As used in this section:

(a) “Classroom” means a room or area in a school building where students are regularly provided educational services.

(b) “Panic alert device” means a device that:

(A) Allows for immediate contact with emergency medical services providers, law enforcement or firefighters;

(B) Allows for communication with, or the provision of alerts to, other persons at the school; and

(C) Is generated by the manual activation of a device or the manual activation of a signal through electronic means.

(c) “School” means any:

(A) Kindergarten through grade 12 public or private school, including a public charter school; or

(B) Educational institution having an average daily attendance of 50 or more students.

(d) “School building” means any building that is regularly used by a school to provide educational services to students in kindergarten through grade 12 or any combination of those grade levels.

(2) Every school is required to have emergency safeguards to protect the safety and well-being of students and staff at the school. The emergency safeguards must include, at a minimum:

[(1)] (a) [All schools are required to instruct and drill students] Drills and instruction on

NOTE: Matter in boldfaced type in an amended section is new; matter [italic and bracketed] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in boldfaced type.
emergency procedures so that [the] students can respond to an emergency without confusion or panic.

(b) Except as provided by subsection (6) of this section, a wireless panic alert device in each classroom of each school building.

(3) The [emergency procedures shall include] drills and instruction required by this section must be on:

(a) Fires;
(b) Earthquakes, which shall include tsunami drills and instruction in schools in a tsunami hazard zone; and
(c) Safety threats.

[(2)(a)] (4)(a) Drills and instruction on fire emergencies shall include routes and methods of exiting the school building.

(b) Drills and instruction on earthquake emergencies shall include the earthquake emergency response procedure known as “drop, cover and hold on.” A school may drill earthquake emergency response procedures in addition to “drop, cover and hold on” when the school determines, based on evaluation of specific engineering and structural issues related to a building, that “drop, cover and hold on” may not be the most effective earthquake emergency response procedure to prevent or limit injury or loss of life.

(c) Drills and instruction on tsunami emergencies shall include immediate evacuation after an earthquake when appropriate or after a tsunami warning to protect students against inundation by tsunamis.

(d) Drills and instruction on safety threats shall include:
(A) Procedures related to lockdown, lockout, shelter in place and evacuation; and
(B) Other appropriate actions to take when there is a threat to safety.

[(3)(a)] (5)(a) At least 30 minutes in each school month shall be used to instruct students on the emergency procedures for emergencies described in subsection [(1)] (3) of this section.

(b) At least two drills on earthquakes shall be conducted each year.
(c) At least two drills on safety threats shall be conducted each year.
(d) In schools in a tsunami hazard zone, at least three drills on earthquakes and tsunamis shall be conducted each year.

(6) A school is not required to have a wireless panic alert device in each classroom of each school building if:

(a) The school chooses to use a hard-wired panic alert device, or a combination of wireless and hard-wired panic alert devices, as long as each classroom of each school building has a panic alert device.

(b) The school is a public school and the purchase and maintenance of panic alert devices causes a financial hardship. For the purpose of this paragraph, a financial hardship is caused when:

(A) A school lacks the technical infrastructure to support wireless panic alert devices; and

(B) The governing body of the school determines that sufficient funding is not available to install and maintain hard-wired panic alert devices.

(c) The school is a private school.

[(4)] (7) All schools shall maintain all exit doors so that the doors can be opened from the inside without a key during school hours and shall ensure that all panic alert devices are maintained
and in working order.

[(5)] (8) Units of local government and state agencies associated with emergency procedures training and planning shall:

(a) Review emergency procedures proposed by schools; and
(b) Assist schools in the instruction and drilling of students in emergency procedures.

[(6) As used in this section, “school” means any:]

(a) Kindergarten through grade 12 public or private school; or
(b) Educational institution having an average daily attendance of 50 or more students.]

(9) The State Board of Education may adopt any rules necessary for the administration of this section.

SECTION 2. (1) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 1 of this 2023 Act become operative July 1, 2024.

(2) The amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 1 of this 2023 Act first apply to the 2024-2025 school year.

(3) Notwithstanding the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, the State Board of Education, the Department of Education and school districts may take any action before the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section that is necessary for the board, department or district to exercise, on and after the operative date specified in subsection (1) of this section, all of the duties, functions and powers conferred on the board, department and district by the amendments to ORS 336.071 by section 1 of this 2023 Act.

SECTION 3. In addition to and not in lieu of any other appropriation, there is appropriated to the Department of Education, for the biennium beginning July 1, 2023, out of the General Fund, the amount of $_______, which shall be expended to assist school districts to purchase and install wireless panic alert devices and systems, including 9-1-1 integration.

SECTION 4. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect July 1, 2023.