

SENATE BILL NO. 173

IN THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA

THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE - SECOND SESSION

BY SENATOR HUGHES

Introduced: 1/16/24

Referred: Prefiled

A BILL

FOR AN ACT ENTITLED

1 **"An Act requiring school districts to grant qualified persons an assigned duty to carry a**
2 **concealed handgun on school grounds under certain conditions; relating to standards,**
3 **training, and continuing education in firearms training for qualified persons granted an**
4 **assigned duty to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds; relating to**
5 **communication of school districts with state and local law enforcement; and relating to**
6 **school crisis response plans."**

7 **BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:**

8 * **Section 1.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section
9 to read:

10 SHORT TITLE. This Act may be known as the Safe Schools Act.

11 * **Sec. 2.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
12 read:

13 LEGISLATIVE INTENT. It is the intent of the legislature that the concealed carry of

1 firearms on school grounds by certain qualified persons augment responses by law
2 enforcement during a crisis.

3 * **Sec. 3.** AS 11.61.210(c) is amended to read:

4 (c) The provisions of (a)(7) of this section do not apply to a

5 (1) peace officer acting within the scope and authority of the officer's
6 employment; **or**

7 (2) **qualified person granted an assigned duty under AS 14.03.170**
8 **to carry a concealed handgun on school grounds.**

9 * **Sec. 4.** AS 14.03 is amended by adding a new section to article 1 to read:

10 **Sec. 14.03.170. Granting qualified persons an assigned duty to carry a**
11 **concealed handgun on school grounds.** (a) A school district shall

12 (1) grant one or more persons who meet the requirements of (b) of this
13 section an assigned duty to carry a concealed handgun on the person on school
14 grounds for defensive use unless there is no person available who meets the
15 requirements of (b) of this section;

16 (2) adopt a written policy relating to granting a qualified person an
17 assigned duty to carry a concealed handgun on the person on school grounds; the
18 written policy must, at a minimum, establish the standards and requirements that must
19 be met before granting the assigned duty, and the standards, requirements, and
20 procedures for documentation of initial and continuing education in firearms training
21 for a qualified person to carry a concealed handgun; the physical and mental standards
22 established may not be less stringent than the physical and mental standards the
23 Alaska Police Standards Council has established for the employment of police officers
24 under AS 18.65.240(a)(2);

25 (3) pay the fees for the training and continuing education required by
26 this section of a qualified person who is an employee of the district and compensate
27 the qualified person for time spent attending training and participating in on-site drills
28 as time worked; and

29 (4) pay or reimburse the fees for the training and continuing education
30 required by this section of a qualified person who is a volunteer for the school district
31 and requests payment or reimbursement.

1 (b) A school district shall grant an assigned duty to carry a concealed handgun
2 under this section to a person who

3 (1) agrees to accept the assigned duty;

4 (2) has obtained a permit to carry a concealed handgun under
5 AS 18.65.700 - 18.65.790;

6 (3) has completed a training course that is equivalent to a nationally
7 recognized firearms training course, nationally recognized training course for school
8 resource officers, or the Faculty and Administrator Safety Training and Emergency
9 Response training program offered by the Buckeye Firearms Foundation;

10 (4) meets the physical and mental standards established by the district's
11 governing body under (a)(2) of this section;

12 (5) has completed any training required by the district's insurance
13 policy to be eligible for coverage; and

14 (6) has committed to a period of continuing employment if required by
15 the school district under (c)(1) of this section.

16 (c) A school district may

17 (1) require a person to commit to a period of continuing employment
18 with the district before granting the person an assigned duty to carry a concealed
19 handgun under this section;

20 (2) revoke or suspend a qualified person's assigned duty to carry a
21 concealed handgun at the discretion of the district or at the request of the qualified
22 person; and

23 (3) install lockers with biometric identification locks in each school for
24 storage of handguns by qualified persons, the costs of which may be eligible for
25 reimbursement by the state.

26 (d) Not later than July 1 of each year, each school district shall provide to
27 local and state law enforcement agencies

28 (1) the district's active shooter plan for each of the district's school
29 buildings;

30 (2) the floor plan for each of the district's school buildings; the floor
31 plan must identify locked and unlocked entrances, accessible windows, safe huddle

1 areas, the location of any gun-storage lockers, and the room assignment of each
2 qualified person, if applicable;

3 (3) contact information for each qualified person;

4 (4) the dates in the academic year on which each school building and
5 all school employees will be available for training or on-site drills; and

6 (5) the dates outside of the academic year on which all school
7 buildings, school administrators, and qualified persons will be available for training or
8 on-site drills.

9 (e) The state or a political subdivision of the state, a school board or an
10 individual member of the school board, a principal, or a qualified person is immune
11 from liability that might otherwise be incurred as a result of an injury caused by a
12 qualified person's act or failure to act during a crisis. This subsection does not apply to
13 an act that constitutes gross negligence.

14 (f) This section does not affect a person's ability to lawfully possess a weapon
15 on school grounds without violating AS 11.61.210(a)(7) or (8).

16 (g) In this section,

17 (1) "qualified person" means a person who meets the requirements of
18 (b) of this section and is granted an assigned duty to carry a concealed handgun on
19 school grounds;

20 (2) "school grounds" has the meaning given in AS 11.71.900.

21 * **Sec. 5.** AS 14.33.100(c) is amended to read:

22 (c) Each district shall annually review and update as appropriate each school's
23 crisis response plan. A copy of each school's crisis response plan, as annually updated,
24 shall be retained by the district and a copy provided to each local agency that has a
25 role in the plan. Notice of completion of the annual review and update and the location
26 of a school's crisis response plan shall be posted at each school in the district. A school
27 crisis response plan shall be printed and available for inspection by the public. **The**
28 **portions of a school crisis response plan relating to floor plans, locked and**
29 **unlocked entrances, accessible windows, safe huddle areas, the location of any**
30 **gun-storage lockers, and the identity and location of a qualified person under**
31 **AS 14.03.170 may not be made available to the public.**

1 * **Sec. 6.** The uncodified law of the State of Alaska is amended by adding a new section to
2 read:

3 APPLICABILITY. This Act applies to a contract or collective bargaining agreement
4 that becomes legally binding on or after the effective date of this Act.