



# OHIO LEGISLATIVE SERVICE COMMISSION

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## Bill Analysis

Carol Napp

### **H.B. 544**

132nd General Assembly  
(As Introduced)

**Reps.** Rogers and Perales, Romanchuk, Holmes, Patton, K. Smith, Seitz, Ginter, West, Riedel

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### **BILL SUMMARY**

- Requires the State Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing safety standards for use in the construction of new facilities for public schools and chartered and nonchartered nonpublic schools.
  - Requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to amend its construction and design standards for new classroom facilities included in state-assisted projects to comply with the State Board's standards.
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### **CONTENT AND OPERATION**

#### **Standards for safety enhancements to new school facilities**

The bill requires the State Board of Education, not later than 90 days after the bill's effective date, to adopt rules prescribing safety standards for use in the construction of new facilities for public schools and chartered and nonchartered nonpublic schools. These standards must consist of design provisions to enhance the overall safety and well-being of students and staff, including at least the following:

- (1) Surveillance video;
- (2) Entryway metal detectors;
- (3) Direct entrance and exit routes located within a classroom, which may only be accessed from inside that classroom;
- (4) An effective means of communication between classrooms and the administrative offices;

(5) A real-time notification device located within a classroom, such as a panic button, to alert local law enforcement when a staff member encounters a dangerous situation; and

(6) A means of threat containment, which may include a barrier system to lock down the portion of the building wherein a threat has been identified.<sup>1</sup>

The standards must require new schools to include at least two of the safety enhancements listed above and must expressly permit new schools to include more than two of those enhancements.<sup>2</sup>

The bill also requires the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission, not later than 180 days after the bill's effective date, to amend its construction and design standards used to approve new classroom facilities included in state-assisted projects to comply with the State Board's standards.<sup>3</sup>

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## HISTORY

ACTION	DATE
Introduced	03-08-18

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<sup>1</sup> R.C. 3301.85(A).

<sup>2</sup> R.C. 3301.85(B).

<sup>3</sup> R.C. 3318.031(C).

