

As Introduced

132nd General Assembly

Regular Session

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H. B. No. 544

Representatives Rogers, Perales

**Cosponsors: Representatives Romanchuk, Holmes, Patton, Smith, K., Seitz,
Ginter, West, Riedel**

A BILL

To amend section 3318.031 and to enact section 1
3301.85 of the Revised Code to require the State 2
Board of Education to adopt rules prescribing 3
standards for safety enhancements to new public 4
and nonpublic school facilities and to require 5
the Ohio Facilities Construction Commission to 6
revise its construction and design standards to 7
comply with the State Board's standards. 8

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF OHIO:

Section 1. That section 3318.031 be amended and section 9
3301.85 of the Revised Code be enacted to read as follows: 10

Sec. 3301.85. (A) Not later than ninety days after the 11
effective date of this section, in accordance with Chapter 119. 12
of the Revised Code, the state board of education shall adopt 13
rules prescribing safety standards for use in the construction 14
of new school facilities for public schools and chartered and 15
nonchartered nonpublic schools. Those standards shall include 16
design provisions to enhance the overall safety and well-being 17
of students and staff including, but not limited to, the 18

<u>following:</u>	19
<u>(1) Surveillance video;</u>	20
<u>(2) Entryway metal detectors;</u>	21
<u>(3) Direct entrance and exit routes located within a</u> <u>classroom, which may only be accessed from inside that</u> <u>classroom;</u>	22 23 24
<u>(4) An effective means of communication between classrooms</u> <u>and the administrative offices;</u>	25 26
<u>(5) A real-time notification device located within a</u> <u>classroom, such as a panic button, to alert local area law</u> <u>enforcement when a staff member encounters a dangerous</u> <u>situation;</u>	27 28 29 30
<u>(6) A means of threat containment, which may include a</u> <u>barrier system to lock down the portion of a building wherein a</u> <u>threat has been identified.</u>	31 32 33
<u>(B) The standards shall require new schools to include at</u> <u>least two of the safety enhancements described in division (A)</u> <u>of this section. The standards also shall expressly permit a new</u> <u>school to include more than two such enhancements.</u>	34 35 36 37
Sec. 3318.031. (A) The Ohio facilities construction commission shall consider student and staff safety and health when reviewing design plans for classroom facility construction projects proposed under this chapter. After consulting with appropriate education, health, and law enforcement personnel, the commission may require as a condition of project approval under either section 3318.03 or division (B) (1) of section 3318.41 of the Revised Code such changes in the design plans as the commission believes will advance or improve student and	38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46

staff safety and health in the proposed classroom facility. 47

To carry out its duties under this division, the 48
commission shall review and, if necessary, amend any 49
construction and design standards used in its project approval 50
process, including standards for location and number of exits, 51
standards for lead safety in classroom facilities constructed 52
before 1978 in which services are provided to children under six 53
years of age, and location of restrooms, with a focus on 54
advancing student and staff safety and health. 55

(B) When reviewing design standards for classroom facility 56
construction projects proposed under this chapter, the 57
commission shall also consider the extent to which the design 58
standards support the following: 59

(1) Trends in educational delivery methods, including 60
digital access and blended learning; 61

(2) Provision of sufficient space for training new 62
teachers and promotion of collaboration among teaching 63
candidates, experienced teachers, and teacher educators; 64

(3) Provision of adequate space for teacher planning and 65
collaboration; 66

(4) Provision of adequate space for parent involvement 67
activities; 68

(5) Provision of sufficient space for innovative 69
partnerships between schools and health and social service 70
agencies. 71

(C) Not later than one hundred eighty days after the 72
effective date of this amendment, the commission shall amend the 73
construction and design standards used in the approval process 74

of any new classroom facilities to comply with the standards 75
adopted by the state board of education pursuant to section 76
3301.85 of the Revised Code. 77

Section 2. That existing section 3318.031 of the Revised 78
Code is hereby repealed. 79