



SPONSOR: Sen. Venables ;  
Rep. Spence; Sens. Sokola, Blevins,  
Bunting, Cloutier, Connor; Reps.  
Lavelle, B. Ennis, West, Price, Keeley

DELAWARE STATE SENATE

141st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 11

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO  
UPDATE AND REVISE EXISTING SCHOOL SAFETY EMERGENCY PROCEDURES IN LIGHT OF THE  
INCREASED THREAT OF TERRORIST ATTACKS IN DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, the events that have unfolded since the terrorist attack on America of September 11, 2001 have  
2 changed the way our community must approach many aspects of public safety; and

3 WHEREAS, our children are among the most cherished members of our community, and are likewise among its  
4 most vulnerable; and

5 WHEREAS, our children are entrusted to the care and protection of the schools they attend for countless hours  
6 every day;

7 WHEREAS, although our schools have safety emergency procedures in place, these procedures do not directly  
8 address the type of threat we currently face and in some cases are not sufficiently proactive;

9 NOW THEREFORE:

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 141<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
11 Representatives thereof joining therein, as approved by the Governor, that the Department of Education and the  
12 Department of Public Safety are hereby directed to update and revise existing school safety emergency procedures in light  
13 of the increased threat of terrorist attacks in Delaware; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that revisions and updates of said procedures must include proactive steps that  
15 attempt to prevent specific safety threats while not unreasonably infringing on the protections guaranteed by our state and  
16 federal constitutions; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that revisions and updates of said procedures must investigate and should adopt  
18 procedures which have been put in place by local school districts or individual schools that provide the maximum level of  
19 safety without unreasonably infringing on the protections guaranteed by our state and federal constitutions; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that one such local procedure that should be considered is one requiring that  
21 each school building be "locked down" in a manner that allows building occupants to exit in the event of an emergency,  
22 but that prevents entrance into the building from all but a single point of entry with that point of entry being attached to a  
23 buzzer or bell that notifies a responsible person of a visitor's need to enter the building; and

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretaries of each Department must consider all reasonable aspects of  
25 implementation prior to final adoption of any revisions or updates of said procedures, including but not limited to cost,  
26 practicability, educational effect, etc.; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Secretary of the Department of Education shall, no later than June 1,  
28 2002, provide the Governor and the General Assembly with a report of the status of the revisions and updates required by  
29 this Joint Resolution and outlining such issues as are necessary to ensure that the General Assembly has a thorough  
30 understanding of any proposed or implemented revisions and updates.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Resolution requires the Departments of Education and Public Safety to revise and update the state's school safety emergency procedures in light of recent events. As a part of this revision, the respective Secretaries must look to policies that have been adopted at the local level by different schools or districts in the State and must consider all reasonable aspects of implementation before the revisions are officially adopted. Finally, the Secretary of Education must provide a status report to the Governor and General Assembly by June 1, 2002 that outlines the revisions that have been made or proposed and the reasoning therefor.

Author: Senator Venables