

**House Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice Committee**  
January 28th, 2025

---

**Bill: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 40 – School Safety Amendments**

Sponsor: Representative Ryan Wilcox

Floor Sponsor: TBD

**UASD Position: Tracking**

This Bill modifies school safety provisions.

Discussion: Representative Wilcox has sponsored a number of school security Bills over the past three years. 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 40 is a follow-up to last year’s HB 84 which, among other things, created the school guardian program. The 1<sup>st</sup> substitute, which was adopted by the Committee, has carefully crafted language to reflect a compromise between the police chiefs and sheriffs. This Bill moves the safety needs assessment deadline to October 15<sup>th</sup>, which will allow more time for the Legislature to address funding needs as they work on the budget process. The Bill directs the State Security Chief to establish minimum cyber security standards. It requires existing sexual abuse training, specifically dealing with sexual extortion, to occur annually rather than once every three years. The sponsor believes that being able to have blunt conversations with students in an effort to keep them safe to be important. The legislation allows a principal or teacher to serve as the school guardian, if needed. It also gives key access to first responders and a mechanism to be able to identify the room number from inside any classroom. Matt Pennington, the State Security Chief, noted the extensive collaboration that has occurred between the various stakeholders in the process of implementing HB 84 and drafting this Bill.

Representative Shepard expressed concerns with the potential unfunded mandates. The sponsor responded that school safety is a shared responsibility and, consequently, it has a shared funding model. The state will appropriate funds based on the needs assessments and the grants that have been applied for to meet school safety needs. The deadline to apply for those grants is January 31, 2025. Representative Wilcox said that the mandated first aid kits will be completely covered by School Security Task Force (“Task Force”) funding. He said that law enforcement agencies should be compensated for their officers who are the SRO/school guardians through SRO agreements with the schools.

The President of the Chiefs of Police Association expressed appreciation for the sponsor’s willingness to work with the police chiefs as part of the Task Force. He noted that there have been successes during the implementation of HB 84, and the Association looks forward to continuing to refine the process and implementing best practices. The Director of School Safety and Student Services for the State School Board spoke in support of the collaborative process.

Yeas: 10

Nays: 0

N/V: 1

**Outcome: 1<sup>st</sup> substitute HB 40 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.**

---

