



STATE OF DELAWARE
STATE COUNCIL FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES
MARGARET M. O'NEILL BUILDING
410 FEDERAL STREET, SUITE 1
DOVER, DE 19901

VOICE: (302) 739-3620
TTY/TDD: (302) 739-3699
FAX: (302) 739-6704

MEMORANDUM

DATE: February 27, 2015

TO: Members of the Delaware House of Representatives
and Delaware State Senate

FROM: Ms. Daniese McMullin-Powell, Chairperson
State Council for Persons with Disabilities *DM-P/ao*

RE: H.B. 14 (Lockable Classroom Doors)

The State Council for Persons with Disabilities (SCPD) has reviewed H.B. 14 which requires that any door to a public school classroom be equipped with a lock that can be locked from either side of the door. SCPD has the following observations.

First, the pros and cons of having all classroom doors lockable from both the inside and outside are not entirely clear. The type of door lock is not described in the bill and may vary from door to door. For example, could an intruder turn an outside door lock trapping students inside for a later attack? Would doors have manual keys or a keyless touchpad? Who would have the key(s) and who would know the codes? If teachers move from classroom to classroom, do they have multiple keys and multiple codes? Are substitute teachers given keys and codes?

Second, since the Council is not an expert in school safety, it would defer to the views of the Department of Homeland Security or other law enforcement agency with expertise in this context. The \$3,994,500 fiscal note (attached) on the predecessor bill (H.B. 221 in 2013) is not insignificant. If law enforcement experts opined that a silent alarm system would be a higher priority than lockable doors, legislation similar to H.B. 33 from the 147th General Assembly could be considered. The attached fiscal note for installing an alarm system in all public schools was between \$110,500 and \$331,500.

Thank you for your consideration and please contact SCPD if you have any questions regarding our observations on the proposed legislation.

cc: Mr. Brian Hartman
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens
Developmental Disabilities Council

HB 14 lockable classroom doors 2-27-15

DELAWARE HOUSE DEMOCRATS

- [Home \(/home\)](#)
- ▼ [Learn Who We Are \(/about\)](#)
 - [Leadership \(/leadership\)](#)
 - [Members \(/members\)](#)
- ▼ [Newsroom \(/media\)](#)
 - [Videos \(/videos\)](#)
 - [Blog \(/blog\)](#)
 - [Press Releases \(/media/press\)](#)
 - [Contact Information \(/page/contact-information\)](#)
 - [Newsletters \(/newsletters\)](#)
- [Write Your Rep. \(/Contact\)](#)
- [Join our e-mail list! \(/signup/oin-e-mail-list\)](#)

Jaques Bills Would Improve School Safety for Current and Future Public Schools

DOVER – Legislation aimed at making Delaware's public schools safer by requiring new door locks for all schools and mandating various safety features for new public schools was introduced Wednesday.



Sponsored by Rep. Earl G. Jaques, [House Bill 14](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+14?Opendocument) (<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+14?Opendocument>) would require that any door to a classroom must have a lock that can be locked from either side of the door. A previous version of the bill stalled in committee last session. [House Bill 13](http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+13?Opendocument) (<http://legis.delaware.gov/LIS/LIS148.nsf/vwLegislation/HB+13?Opendocument>) would require all new school construction or major renovation to include the following features: an intruder alarm, bulletproof glass in entrance areas and interior doors and windows, and doors lockable with keys on both sides.

"The issue of school safety is one we cannot forget. While providing a quality education is our top priority for schoolchildren, we also have to make sure they are safe in their learning environment," said Rep. Jaques, D-Glasgow. "These measures are not cure-alls, but they will help provide just a little more safety, security and peace of mind for teachers, students and their parents."

HB 13 also would require all new school construction plans to be submitted to the Office of Management and Budget's Facilities Management Section for compliance with these requirements. A previous version of this bill cleared the House unanimously last year.

Both bills have been assigned to the House Education Committee, which Rep. Jaques chairs.

###

[Email this page \(/forward?path=node%2F1893\)](#)

[Home \(/\)](#) > Jaques Bills Would Improve School Safety for Current and Future Public Schools

- [Contact your Representative \(/Contact\)](#)
- [Helpful Resources \(/page/helpful-resources\)](#)

[Facebook](#)

[\(https://www.facebook.com/DEHouseDems/\)](https://www.facebook.com/DEHouseDems/)

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjIIZpH3hMu0EB3Ko9jphNQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjIIZpH3hMu0EB3Ko9jphNQ>

[\(rss.xml\)](#)

147TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FISCAL NOTE

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 221
SPONSOR: Representative Jaques
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SCHOOL PROPERTY AND HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This Act will require that every door into a classroom in every public school shall be lockable from both inside and outside of the classroom.
2. Based upon an assessment by the Department of Education, there are a maximum of 12,650 doors in the school districts and 665 doors in the charter schools that may be affected by this Act.
3. The anticipated cost to purchase and install commercial grade, two-way locks is assumed at \$300 per door given the variability in the type and age of school facilities, the cost of installation, and the general price to purchase a lock. However, based on an assessment by the Department of Education, the cost may vary up to \$600 per door.

Cost:

Fiscal Year 2014	\$3,994,500 (\$300 per door)
Fiscal Year 2015	\$0
Fiscal Year 2016	\$0

Office of Controller General
January 21, 2014
MJ:MJ
0271470014

(Amounts are shown in whole dollars)

147TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

FISCAL NOTE

BILL: HOUSE BILL NO. 33
SPONSOR: Representative Miro
DESCRIPTION: AN ACT TO AMEND TITLE 14 OF THE DELAWARE CODE RELATING TO SILENT ALARM SYSTEMS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

ASSUMPTIONS:

1. This Act requires every public school building to be equipped with an alarm system capable of notifying local law enforcement of an emergency that may be manually activated from at least one location within the public school.
2. Based on the Department of Education, there are 228 public school buildings through the State (207 regular and vocational district buildings and 21 charter schools). This does not include Pencader Charter School, which is scheduled to close at the end of the school year. Based on a survey performed by the Department of Safety and Homeland Security, there are a total of 6 school buildings that will meet the requirements of this Act. As such, there are a total of 221 public school buildings impacted by this Act.
3. Depending on the infrastructure needs of the school buildings, the estimated one-time cost per building to satisfy the provisions of this Act is expected to range between \$500 to \$1,500, which includes labor installation as well as the necessary hardware to install a panic button. Statewide, the projected one-time installation costs range between \$110,500 (\$500 X 221 buildings) to \$331,500 (\$1,500 X 221 buildings). The Fiscal Year 2014 Budget, as written by the Joint Finance Committee, includes \$700,000 for School Safety Plans that could potentially be used as a source of funding.
4. The ongoing monitoring cost of the system for the link to local law enforcement, through a third party vendor and using a standard telephone line, is assumed to be a local school district/charter school expense at \$360 annually per school building (\$30 per month/per building). Statewide, monthly monitoring costs are projected to impact all districts/charter schools by \$79,560 in total (\$360 annually/per building X 221 buildings).

Cost: Fiscal Year 2014: \$110,500 to \$331,500 for installation (State)
\$79,560 statewide monitoring costs (Local only)
Fiscal Year 2015: \$79,560 statewide monitoring costs (Local only)
Fiscal Year 2016: \$79,560 statewide monitoring costs (Local only)