

**REPORT OF THE
CHIEF LEGISLATIVE ANALYST**

DATE: May 31, 2019

TO: Honorable Members of the Rules, Elections, and Intergovernmental Relations
Committee

FROM: Sharon M. Tso 
Chief Legislative Analyst

Council File No: 19-0002-S82
Assignment No: 19-05-0504

SUBJECT: Resolution to support SB 86 and SB 541

CLA RECOMMENDATION: Adopt the Resolution (Blumenfield – Ryu) to include in the City’s 2019 – 2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 86 (Portantino) and SB 541 (Bates), which would require public, private, and charter schools to conduct at least one lockdown drill per year.

SUMMARY

The Resolution (Blumenfield – Ryu), introduced on May 3, 2019, states that public and charter schools are currently required to develop comprehensive school safety plans that address procedures for preparing for and responding to natural disasters and criminal activities. Active shooter incidents at schools have occurred with alarming regularity in California, and federal data indicates there were seven such incidents in California between 2000 and 2017. Lockdown drills are currently conducted at the discretion of each school and not mandated for frequency like fire and earthquake drills.

The Resolution further states that SB 86 (Portantino) and SB 541 (Bates) would require public, charter, and private schools in California to conduct lockdown drills at least annually. The Resolution therefore requests that the Council support SB 86 and SB 541.

BACKGROUND

Existing law establishes various standards for school safety. It requires public, private, or parochial schools to conduct a fire drill at least once every month at the elementary schools and at least four times every school year at the intermediate levels. It also requires the development of a comprehensive school safety plan, which includes, among other things, procedures for conducting tactical responses to criminal incidents, including procedures related to individuals with guns on school campuses and at school-related functions.

SB 86 and SB 541 require, beginning with the 2020-2021 school year, comprehensive school safety plans to include procedures requiring either a lockdown drill or a multi-option drill to be conducted in an age-appropriate manner at least once per school year at each school. The proposed legislation also requires school officials to consider the emotional impact of the drill on pupils when planning, preparing, and conducting the drill. While SB 86 and SB 541 are substantially similar, SB 541 also applies to charter schools and private schools with an enrollment of 50 or more pupils or more than one classroom.

In 2017, the California State Auditor released a report concerning the ability of K-12 schools' readiness to respond to emergencies, including active shooter threats. The report found that active shooter incidents became more common between 2000 and 2015, with K-12 facilities and institutions of higher education the second most common location for those shootings to occur. The State Auditor also found that the number of active shooter threats and incidents around schools had increased since academic year 2012-13. These findings are reproduced in the chart below:

Reported By	Fiscal Year				
<i>Districts</i>	<i>2012-13</i>	<i>2013-14</i>	<i>2014-15</i>	<i>2015-16</i>	<i>2016-17</i>
Threats	9	9	15	29	27
Incidents	2	1	0	3	3
<i>County Offices</i>					
Threats	11	11	16	17	11
Incidents	1	0	0	3	1
Totals	23	21	31	52	42

Nevertheless, the report noted that state law does not require procedures for schools to include responses to active shooter threats in their comprehensive school safety plans. It then recommends that the state requires schools to establish procedures to respond to violent incidents.

The Los Angeles Unified School District is in support of SB 86. There is no registered opposition at this time.

BILL STATUS – SB 86

1/10/2019 Introduced. Read first time.
 3/20/2019 From Rules Committee with author's amendments. Read second time and amended.
 3/27/2019 Re-referred to Education Committee.
 4/30/2019 From Education Committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Appropriations Committee (7-0).
 5/16/2019 From Appropriations Committee: Do pass (6-0).
 5/23/2019 Read third time. Passed (38-0). Ordered to the Assembly.
 5/24/2019 In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.

BILL STATUS – SB 541

2/22/2019 Introduced. To print.
 3/07/2019 Referred to Education Committee.
 4/09/2019 From Education Committee: Do pass as amended and re-refer to Appropriations Committee (6-0).
 5/17/2019 From Appropriations Committee: Do pass as amended (6-0).
 5/23/2019 Read third time. Passed (38-0). Ordered to the Assembly.
 5/24/2019 In Assembly. Read first time. Held at Desk.



Tim Plummer
Analyst

SMT:tcp

Attachments: Resolution (Blumenfield - Ryu) in support of SB 86 and SB 541

ENVIRONMENTAL RELATIONS RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state, or federal governmental body must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, existing State law requires public and charter schools to develop comprehensive school safety plans that address procedures for preparing for and responding to natural disasters, such as fires and earthquakes, and criminal activities, including active shooter incidents; and

WHEREAS, active shooter incidents at schools in California and around the country have occurred with disturbing and unacceptable regularity; and

WHEREAS, federal data indicates that there were seven active shooter incidents at schools in California between 2000 and 2017, and that schools have been the second most common location for all active shooter incidents in California; and

WHEREAS, it is important that schools and their students be prepared to respond to natural and man-made disasters of all kinds, including active shooter incidents, and lockdown drills are an important tool for preparing for such incidents; and

WHEREAS, lockdown drills are currently conducted at the discretion of each school and are not mandated for frequency like fire and earthquake drills; and

WHEREAS, SB 86 (Portantino) and SB 541 (Bates) would require public, charter and private schools in California to conduct lockdown drills at least annually;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution, the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2019-2020 State Legislative Program SUPPORT for SB 86 (Portantino) and SB 541 (Bates), which would require public, private, and charter schools to conduct at least one lockdown drill per year.

PRESENTED BY: Bob Blumenfeld
BOB BLUMENFIELD
Councilmember, 3rd District

SECONDED BY: De 13

[Signature]

ORIGINAL