

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING  
20 MANDATED COUNTER-TERRORISM DRILLS IN MARYLAND  
30 PUBLIC SCHOOLS

40 WHEREAS: The terrorist acts of September 11, 2001, have radically altered the manner in  
50 which security and safety are implemented within the United States; and,

60 WHEREAS: These attacks on American soil led to the creation of the Department of  
70 Homeland Security and increased national defense measures; and,

80 WHEREAS: The United States of America continues to operate under the constant threat of  
90 terrorist action; and,

100 WHEREAS: According to the Department of Homeland Security, "All 170 Americans should  
110 begin a process of learning about potential threats so we are better prepared to  
120 react during an attack"; and,

130 WHEREAS: The Secretary of the U.S. Department of Education, Rod Paige, stated that "The  
140 tide of events since September 11, 2001, demands that schools be better  
150 prepared"; and,

160 WHEREAS: During the Cold War era, Civil Defense Drills were routinely executed in  
170 response to the threat of nuclear war; and,

180 WHEREAS: The U.S. Department of Education calls for a revision of school emergency  
190 response plans to address possible biological, chemical, or radiological threats;  
200 and,

210 WHEREAS: Maryland public schools currently require each county superintendent to hold  
220 fire drills at least ten times each school year and at least once every sixty days  
230 (Maryland Annotated Code 7-408); and,

240 WHEREAS: According to the Leave No Child Behind Act school districts must present plans  
250 that chart how they are working to keep their schools safe; and,

260 WHEREAS: Other states such as Texas and Tennessee have initiated programs to prepare  
270 their school-age children for the threat of terrorist attack.

280 THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED: That the Maryland State Department of Education  
290 require each county superintendent to hold counter-terrorism drills for students  
300 at least ten times each school year and at least once every sixty days;

310 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That these drills include but are not limited to information  
320 concerning the response to biological, chemical, and nuclear threats, the practice  
330 of multiple evacuation routes, and the coordination of school officials and local  
340 emergency response personnel; and,

350 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland State Department of Education require that  
360 all staff remain up to date on prevention measures and new potential threats;  
370 and,

380 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That each county superintendent submit a plan for  
390 communication to parents of students and a strategy for the discharge of students  
400 in the event of a terrorist attack; and,

410 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That these plans be widely distributed among parents, Parent  
420 Teacher Associations, and staff members.

430 MANDATES: Governor Robert Ehrlich  
440 Lt. Governor Michael Steele  
450 Maryland State Board of Education President Marilyn Maultsby  
460 Maryland State Board of Elections Vice President Reginald Dunn  
470 Maryland State Superintendent of Schools Nancy Grasmick  
480 Maryland Parent Teacher Association President Elizabeth Crosby

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