

Date of Hearing: April 25, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
Patrick O'Donnell, Chair
AB 3205 (O'Donnell) – As Amended March 20, 2018

SUBJECT: School facilities: modernization projects: door locks

SUMMARY: Requires the governing board of a school district seeking state school facilities bond funds to include, as part of a modernization project, locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside of the room. The requirement does not apply to 1) doors that are locked from the outside at all times, 2) doors that lock from the inside, and 3) pupil restrooms. Requires the locks to conform to the specifications and requirements set forth in Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations.

EXISTING LAW:

- 1) Specifies the duties of a governing board of a school district and gives authority to the governing board to enter into contracts, establish funds, and make payments for the purpose of maintaining property.
- 2) Requires, under the Leroy F. Greene School Facilities Act of 1998, the State Allocation Board (SAB) to allocate to applicant school districts, prescribed per-unhoused-pupil state funding for construction and modernization of school facilities, including hardship funding, and supplemental funding for site development and acquisition.
- 3) Requires, on and after July 1, 2011, all new construction projects submitted to the Division of State Architect (DSA) to include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside. Requires the locks to conform to the specifications and requirements set forth in Title 24 regulations. Exempts doors that are locked from the outside at all times and pupil restrooms from the requirement.

FISCAL EFFECT: Unknown

COMMENTS: *School safety.* Since April 20, 1999, when two high school students killed 12 students and one teacher and wounded 23 others before committing suicide at Columbine High School in Colorado, school safety has been a major concern in schools across the country. Since then, more shootings have taken place at schoolsites, including Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown Connecticut in December 2012 where 26 students and educators were killed, and recently, the February 14, 2018 shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida with 17 casualties.

Conversations regarding school safety are taking place throughout the nation. Marjory Stoneman Douglas students have spurred student marches in Washington, D.C. and in many states demanding stricter gun control policies. Other proposed strategies for school safety include hiring police officers, installing metal detectors, arming teachers, and other infrastructure improvements.

Polls indicate fear of school shootings. In a recent Public Policy Institute of California (PPIC) survey conducted late March/early April, 73% of adults and 82% of public school parents say

they are “very” or “somewhat concerned” about school shootings. Similarly, a Pew Research Center survey of parents and teenagers during the months of March and April found 57% of teenagers aged 13-17 “very worried” or “somewhat worried” about a shooting in their schools.

Lock downs. In situations where an active shooter is on campus, schools will employ lock downs to keep students in and perpetrators out. Teachers in schools without locks on doors that can be locked from the inside must go outside to lock their doors, leaving them and their students vulnerable to threats or attacks.

New schools already have locks that lock from the inside. All new schools already have locks that lock from the inside. AB 211 (Mendoza), Chapter 430, Statutes of 2010, requires, as a condition for state facilities bond funds, all new construction projects submitted to the DSA on and after July 1, 2011 to include locks that allow a door to be locked from the inside of a classroom or any room that accommodates five or more people. California Building Standards Codes under Title 24 regulations authorize the use of locks that are connected to the latching mechanism of the door so that the lock is automatically disengaged without the use of a key or requirement of special knowledge or effort (e.g., a thumbturn lock (slide bolt) above a door lever that unlocks when the lever is turned in one motion).

Bill addresses older schools. The majority of California school buildings are more than 25 years old. AB 3205 requires a local governing board seeking state school bond funds for modernization of school facilities built prior to 2012 to include, in those projects, locks that allow classroom doors to be locked from the inside. Doors that are locked at all times, doors that already have locks that lock from the inside, and pupil restrooms are exempted from the requirement. Earlier versions of AB 211 required modernization projects to have inside door locks, but the requirement was removed before reaching the Governor’s desk.

In an interview on Good Morning America days after the Marjory Stoneman Douglas shooting, a student said, “We have had meetings and teachers talking about what to do in these type of situations, actually, pretty recently and had initiatives to lock all the doors, and, I think, honestly, that worked and easily saved a couple hundred if not a thousand lives because all those doors were locked.”

One of the key recommendations of a commission established to review school security following the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting was to require all new or renovated school buildings to have classroom doors that lock from the inside. Sandy Hook Elementary school’s classroom doors had to be locked from the outside. Fourteen children were killed in one classroom and a teacher and six students were killed inside another classroom.

The author states, “The casualties at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Florida remind us that we need to do more to protect our children, teachers and school staff. It is our responsibility to provide protection in both older and new schools. Allowing teachers to lock a classroom door from the inside can save lives.”

Prior related legislation. AB 677 (Dodd), introduced in 2015, would have required, if a bond was passed by voters on or after January 1, 2016, all modernization projects submitted to the DSA to include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside. The bill would have also required all higher education institutions to include locks that lock from the inside on all new construction projects. The bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee’s suspense file.

SB 316 (Block), introduced in 2013, would have required, on or after January 1, 2016, all modernization projects submitted to the DSA to include locks that allow doors to classrooms and any room with an occupancy of five or more persons to be locked from the inside. The bill also directed the SAB to adjust modernization grants to reflect the associated cost of installing locks. The bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

AB 85 (Mendoza), introduced in 2012, would have required all K-12 modernization projects that include rehabilitation in a classroom or a room with an occupancy of five or more and all community college district new construction projects to install locks that can be locked from the inside. The bill was held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's suspense file.

AB 211 (Mendoza), Chapter 430, Statutes of 2010, requires, as a condition for state education bond funds, all new construction projects submitted to the DSA on and after July 1, 2011 to include locks that allow a door to be locked from the inside of a classroom or any room that accommodates five or more people.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**Support**

California Federation of Teachers
California School Employees Association
California Teachers Association

Opposition

None Received

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