

STUDENT SAFETY ACT

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Senate Bill 1200 as reported from House committee

Sponsor: Sen. Tom Barrett

House Committee: Government Operations

Senate Committee: Appropriations [Discharged]

Complete to 12-15-20

Analysis available at
<http://www.legislature.mi.gov>

(Enacted as Public Act 401 of 2020)

SUMMARY:

Senate Bill 1200 would amend the Student Safety Act to transfer administrative and operational responsibilities under the act from the Department of the Attorney General to the Department of State Police (MSP).

The Student Safety Act provides students and teachers a confidential and easily accessible means to report violent or threatening behavior to trained authorities positioned to help or intervene. The act's requirements generally were based on a reporting program called "Safe2Tell" created in Colorado following the Columbine school shooting. The act requires the attorney general to establish a program for receiving information from the public regarding potential self-harm, harm to others, or criminal acts directed at students, school employees, or schools. The act also requires the program to include a reporting hotline that is available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. The legislature extended the act's sunset (expiration date) to October 1, 2021, in 2017 PA 100.

The OK2Say program, a prevention-based reporting system, was launched in September 2014 to fulfill the act's hotline requirement. The attorney general is responsible for administrative and operational oversight of OK2Say according to the act's guidelines, and MSP operates and staffs the hotline and under a memorandum of understanding with the attorney general. The hotline receives reports and information via mobile text, phone, email, and through its website and mobile app.

Senate Bill 1200 would transfer to MSP the powers and duties that are currently given to the attorney general under the act. In addition to those described above, these include promoting public awareness of the program and hotline, developing and sharing with schools a source of information on available community mental health resources and contacts, and preparing and filing with the legislature an annual report on the program and hotline.

Finally, the bill would remove references in the act to the "vendor" contracted to operate the hotline, as this vendor has been MSP, and under the bill MSP would be responsible for the entire program (including the hotline).

MCL 752.912 et seq.

FISCAL IMPACT:

Senate Bill 1200 may result in cost savings to the state, by consolidating all OK2Say functions within the Department of State Police (MSP). 2020 PA 166 (which provides appropriations for various state departments in FY 2020-21) includes an increase in appropriations for MSP and a decrease in appropriations for the Department of the Attorney General to reflect the transfer of these functions. The MSP FY 2020-21 appropriation for these transferred functions is \$906,000 Gross (\$436,400 GF/GP) and \$469,600 from the Student Safety Fund, which was created to support OK2Say activities. FY 2019-20 appropriations to the Department of the Attorney General for these functions totaled \$1,472,300 (\$1.0 million GF/GP).

POSITIONS:

The Department of State Police indicated support for the bill. (12-15-20)

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■ This analysis was prepared by nonpartisan House Fiscal Agency staff for use by House members in their deliberations, and does not constitute an official statement of legislative intent.