

SENATE BILL NO. 164

INTRODUCED BY F. THOMAS

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING AN EXCEPTION TO THE FIRE CODE IN RELATION TO THREATS TO STUDENT SAFETY; AMENDING SECTION 50-61-106, MCA; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

**NEW SECTION. Section 1. Limited exception to portion of fire code.** (1) A school district, as defined

in 20-6-101, may lock or otherwise secure a fire exit, hallway, corridor, or entranceway leading to a fire exit if:

- (a) recommended by a threat assessment or other safety consultant, and the input of fire code enforcement officials and local law enforcement regarding the recommendation has been considered;
- (b) a publicly noticed meeting has been conducted at which the community has had the opportunity to provide input prior to a final decision by the board of trustees; and
- (c) each employee working in the applicable school building has full control over the ability to unlock or remove other means of securing the exit.

(2) Any determination of the necessity for locks or other methods of securing exits under this section must be incorporated as part of a school safety plan adopted by the board of trustees and is subject to annual review.

**Section 2.** Section 50-61-106, MCA, is amended to read:

**"50-61-106. Unlawful to obstruct fire exit.** ~~It~~ Except as provided in [section 1], it is unlawful to obstruct in any manner any fire exit, or any hallway, corridor, or entranceway leading to a fire exit, required by rules adopted by the department of justice."

**NEW SECTION. Section 3. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 1, part 4, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 1, part 4, apply to [section 1].

**NEW SECTION. Section 4. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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