

1 **** BILL NO. ****

2 INTRODUCED BY ****

3 BY REQUEST OF THE ****

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5 A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT AUTHORIZING SCHOOL DISTRICTS TO PARTNER WITH LAW
6 ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES AND EMERGENCY SERVICES ORGANIZATIONS TO CREATE A DISTRICT
7 'HANDLE WITH CARE' PROGRAM; REQUIRING DISTRICTS TO DESIGNATE A CONTACT PERSON;
8 SPECIFYING THE LIMITED INFORMATION THAT MADE BE SHARED THROUGH THE PROGRAM; AND;
9 PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

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

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13 NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Handle with care programs authorized.** (1) The board of trustees may
14 authorize the creation of a handle with care program on behalf of the pupils in the district. To implement the
15 program, the trustees shall enter into an agreement to partner with any of the following:

16 (a) a law enforcement agency, as defined in 45-8-108;

17 (b) an emergency services organization, as defined in 50-16-701.

18 (2) The trustees shall notify the appropriate interdisciplinary child information and school safety team
19 provided for in 52-2-111 that the district has implemented a handle with care program.

20 (3) As part of the agreement with partner organizations, the trustees shall designate a contact person
21 at the school district to be the recipient of a handle with care message from a law enforcement agency or
22 emergency services organization. If the designated contact person is someone other than the superintendent or
23 principal, the agreement must specify that there is a chain of communication from the designated contact
24 person to the appropriate superintendent or principal to the appropriate teacher of the pupil who is involved.

25 (4) When an employee of a law enforcement agency or emergency services organization responds to
26 an event where a pupil was present, the employee may contact the designated contact person at the school
27 district to inform the school district that the pupil was present at the scene of a potentially traumatic event. The
28 employee:

(a) shall release only the pupil's name and state "handle with care" to the designated school district contact person;

(b) may not provide any further information about the event or the pupil; and

(c) shall promptly contact the designated contact person. Whenever possible, the employee shall provide the handle with care message before the start of the next school day.

(5) When a district implements a handle with care program, the trustees shall implement guidelines for the employees of the district regarding the procedure by which a handle with care message is forwarded to a pupil's teacher.

NEW SECTION. Section 2. Codification instruction. [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, and the provisions of Title 20, chapter 7, part 13, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. Section 3. {standard} Effective date. [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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