

Public Safety and Security Committee

JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1382

Title: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A SCHOOL MAPPING DATA GRANT PROGRAM.

Vote Date: 3/18/2025

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 3/4/2025

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

[Rep. Carol Hall, 59th Dist.](#)

REASONS FOR BILL:

Many emergency medical service agencies and first responders have concerns about the layout of high-capacity buildings such as schools. The missing information and lack of knowledge about a building can be a risk to the occupants of the building. It can lead to delayed response times during an emergency which can lead to countless fatalities.

SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE:

Adds Section 2 which specifies that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection and Administrative Services and Education will both administer the school security infrastructure grant program. It also adds that school mapping data can be covered by those grants.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

[Alfredo Herrera, Geographic Information Officer, Office of Policy and Management](#)

Alfredo Herrera states OPM's observations on SB 1382 are that the language concerning the deliverables are that it is too specific and may not allow the state to choose the best vendor for the project. OPM also stated that the current language of the bill does not allow the state and municipalities to receive more detailed digital data like that in Geographic Information Systems. Officer Herrera states that these systems would integrate better into the systems used by first responders. OPM specifies that the request for proposals from perspective vendors should include sections (b)(3) to (b)(9), but that these requirements should not be codified in statutes as they will change over time. An example of this is that the preference for printed maps may not match requirements for school and building officials. Section (b)(5) requires that a map is oriented to true north, but OPM states that this is unnecessary with the

use of GIS software. Section (c) should specify that the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection, should be the agency that creates and maintains the mapping requirements through policy.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

President Peter Brown, Professional Fire Fighters Association of Connecticut

Peter Brown states that in 2023 fire fighters in Connecticut responded to over 250,000 incidents. President Brown states that fire fighters need as much information as possible such as the address, nature of the incident or injury, type of structure or building, and best route of access to the incident. President Brown points out that often first responders are often called to incidents face gaps in the information. Having the ability to access mapping data like aerial views and floor by floor classroom locations through the GIS software, would allow fire fighters to mitigate emergency situations by limiting further injury through better response times.

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association supports SB 1382 and emphasizes that there have been incidents across the country and Connecticut in which individuals have entered schools “with the intent to do harm” to others. They also state that it is often difficult to manage calls to schools because they are large and have several entry points making it hard to respond in a timely manner. The Police Chiefs Association explains that having access to updated printed or digital maps would be crucial to improving response times and outcomes.

Executive Director Besty Gara, Connecticut Council of Small Towns

Executive Director Gara, on behalf of COST supports SB 1382. However, the organization asks the legislature to consider the financial impact on schools and municipalities if the funds are not available through the grant program to facilitate the shift to this new school mapping situation.

Mike Muszynski Executive Director of Connecticut Conference of Municipalities

Requests that the legislature find a way to fully fund this program as to ensure this program has the greatest rate of success.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expresses

Reported by: Geva Tinker

Date: 3/28/25