

**House Bills 4672 and 4675**  
**Sponsor: Rep. Kirk A. Profit**  
**Committee: Education**

**Complete to 5-14-93**

**A SUMMARY OF HOUSE BILLS 4672 AND 4675 AS INTRODUCED 4-28-93**

House Bill 4675 would create the School Security Task Force Act, under which there would be established a 17-member school security task force within the Department of Education to investigate the problems of weapons in schools and other factors that threaten school security and to recommend administrative and legislative responses to provide students with a safe environment. The act would be repealed effective December 31, 1996.

House Bill 4672 would amend the School Code (MCL 380.1291) to allow a school district to establish a local school security task force to perform functions at the local level similar to those performed by the state-level task force. The local task force would have to include representatives of parents, teachers, and other school employees, school administrators, law enforcement officials, students, and other community members. A district could use school operating funds for the task force's activities.

The state task force would be required to:

-- Research and evaluate the problem of weapons in schools and other factors having a negative impact on school security in the state, responses to the problem by school districts and other communities, and responses to the problem in other states.

-- Award grants to school districts and local units of government for local programs designed to reduce the incidence of weapons in school and other security-threatening factors. The grants would be awarded on a competitive basis for projects including, but not limited to: acquiring security equipment; operating a telephone line or other method of receiving information, which could be anonymous, about people suspected of having weapons in school or committing a crime involving weapons in school; developing or implementing local public education programs aimed at reducing access to weapons by minors and reducing weapons in schools; developing alternative education programs for students found with weapons in school; and developing or implementing alternative dispute resolution programs to teach students how to resolve conflict in a non-violent and non-assaultive manner.

-- Evaluate and make recommendations on the feasibility of incorporating the following into a weapons-free school program: developing a statewide reporting system requiring full reporting by schools and school districts of incidents involving weapons in school to a centralized data repository; providing a uniform set of definitions for identifying and categorizing incidents involving weapons in schools; encouraging active review by government and the public of local school district policies for responding to violence, crime, and discipline problems; expanding the accountability of parents and students so that they

would have a more active role and greater responsibility for maintaining safety in the schools; participation by schools and school districts in the Youth Crime Watch of America program; developing and funding academic-based alternative education programs at sites separate from regular school buildings for serious and chronic repeat offenders and imposing community service requirements for repeat offenders; training for public school employees about laws, rules, and rights relating to violence, crime, and student behavior problems; implementing and enforcing a ban on student use and possession of pagers, cellular telephones, and similar devices at school and school-related events, except as approved for medical or other emergencies; training teachers and other school personnel in conflict resolution; and funding enhanced safety and security features in new school building construction and in renovations to existing school buildings.

-- Submit a report six months after its first meeting, and at least twice annually thereafter, on its activities, findings, and legislative recommendations to the governor, appropriate standing committees of the legislature, and the State Board of Education. The report would have to contain at least the task force's findings on the extent of the weapons problem in schools and other security-threatening factors; a review of local efforts; an evaluation of programs funded by grants; and any legislative or administrative recommendations. The task force would also have to issue an annual report to school districts on effective local school security programs.

Task force members would be appointed by the governor. One would be chosen directly by the governor and 16 would be appointed from among 2 nominees submitted by each of the following: The Speaker of the House of Representatives; the Senate Majority Leader; the Department of State Police; the Department of Education; the Michigan Education Association; the Michigan Federation of Teachers; the Michigan Association of School Boards; the Michigan Association of School Administrators; the Detroit Public Schools; the Michigan Association of Counties; the Michigan Municipal League; the City of Detroit; the Wayne County Prosecutor; the Prosecuting Attorneys Association of Michigan; the National Rifle Association; and a juvenile justice association designated by the Department of State Police. The task force would be subject to the Open Meetings Act and the Freedom of Information Act. The Department of Education would provide technical assistance.