



Date: 6/15/2021

## School Safety Inspections

**Bill Number(s):** House Bill 4167 (H-1)

**Status:** House Rules & Competitiveness Committee

**MASB Position:** **OPPOSE**

**What does it do?** [HB 4167 \(H-1\)](#) would require the ISD superintendent or an assigned designee to do annual inspections of all buildings on a schools' premises within the ISD for health and safety violations. This legislation would also require DHHS to develop and publish inspection guidelines by March 2022. If passed, districts must begin inspections by August 2022 and report all inspections to the state. Any modifications and remediation must be completed within 14 days of the inspection.

**How does it affect public schools?** Assigning this responsibility to the ISD superintendent, does not guarantee that s/he or staff have the expertise to do these inspections. If a designee is needed, an individual may need to be hired for just this purpose, creating new costs for districts. The cost would depend on the number of buildings on the premise. Much of the inspections are subjective, and the bill does not include any protections for a person using their "good faith" judgment during the inspection process. Also, current law requires any repairs or contracts worth more than \$25,288 must be done through a competitive bid process. The request for proposal and approval of contract must be done by the local school board, since the ISD has no role in this for its constituent districts. Lesser repair amounts may still require a budget adjustment. Both instances would require a public board meeting before a contract could be entered into or repairs could begin. Thus, proving within 14 days that the district has entered into a contract for the remediation will be difficult.

**MASB's position?** MASB opposes [HB 4167 \(H-1\)](#) as many of these inspections are subjective and could cost be costly to districts. We believe this legislation is unnecessary and burdensome. School buildings are already inspected by fire and health departments, among others on a regular basis. We suggest addressing capital needs and resources at the state level before requiring an additional annual inspection with such tight restraints.