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STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 31<sup>ST</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

July 20, 2023

## **Testimony on Assembly Bill 293**

Thank you Chairman Kitchens and Assembly Committee on Education members for hearing Assembly Bill 293 today. In short, this bill makes a technical change to the successful school safety mapping program and how it defines critical mapping data for school safety plans.

For background, over the past two budgets the Joint Committee on Finance has invested money to ensure that every school and law enforcement department in the state has access to grant funds to improve their response time to critical incidents.

School districts and law enforcement jointly apply for these funds. Once approved, schools and local enforcement, and other first responders, receive these detailed maps of schools. The maps include details of both the inside and outside of a school. So, if there is an active shooter, a fire, tornado, or other critical situations, law enforcement and other first responders know the exact layout of the school they are entering. This allows them to remove wounded more quickly, and to address a dangerous situation or person more quickly.

Schools are not the only entities that use these maps in Wisconsin. Companies such as; S.C. Johnson, AmFam Field, Molson Coors and other businesses and entities use these maps.

After the initial investment in the 2021-2023 state budget, more schools applied for funding than there were funds available. Working with my colleagues in the Assembly, as well as Senator Wanggaard and Senator James, we were successful in having more funding set aside this budget. Now all schools, public and private, will have access to these grant funds. I would like to thank the committee members on the Joint Committee on Finance for their support and recognition of this important program.

The bill before you today uses the term “interactive critical mapping data” to describe the mapping data and defines the term as interactive representations of a specific location that are verifiable, digital, shareable, and shown in real time. This small technical change from existing statute helps make sure prospective vendors are able to bid and know the requirements needed.

As we continue to proactively find ways to keep our schools and students safe, it is important we look at new technologies and their potential to assist law enforcement. I am proud to support programs like these that are embraced by school district leaders and law enforcement professionals.

Thank you for your consideration of Assembly Bill 293. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.



# Van H. Wanggaard

Wisconsin State Senator

## TESTIMONY ON ASSEMBLY BILL 293

Thank you Mr. Chairman and committee members for today's hearing on Assembly Bill 293, which changes a term in last session's Act 109.

As you may be aware, the 2021-23 budget contained \$2.5 million to fund grants for interactive maps for school buildings. 2021 Act 109 created the structure to allocate these grants funds for "critical incident mapping," a term that is used by law enforcement and security personnel across the country.

Act 109 has been a highly successful and sought-after grant, with more applications than funds available. Earlier this year, the Department of Justice reallocated existing school safety funds to this grant, and last month, Republicans allocated an additional \$2.5 million to meet demand for this important and popular program.

Earlier this year, we learned that the term "critical incident mapping" had been trademarked by a vendor of these products. As a result, some school districts believed that only products by that specific vendor were allowable for the grant. Obviously, this is a problem. Our intention was never to require school districts to contract with one specific vendor to improve security in our schools.

We looked at different methods to correct this problem. We studied whether defining "critical incident mapping" would clear up confusion about allowable products and/or defeat the trademark. We also considered whether changing the wording of the product would solve the problem. We spoke with different stakeholders including vendors to get their input, as well.

Ultimately, we went with a hybrid approach to ensure that schools can use multiple vendors when using these grants. First, we changed the term from the trademarked "Critical Incident Mapping" to "Interactive Critical Mapping Data." We also defined the term to mean "interactive representations of a specific location that are verifiable, digital, shareable and shown in real time." The definition captures the critical components of the type of product the grant is to be used for. Both the definition and the new term are supported by vendors and the authors of last session's bill. And importantly, neither is trademarked.

In the end, this is a simple bill ensuring fairness in a grant process to help keep our children safe, and it deserves this committee's support.

**Serving Racine and Kenosha Counties - Senate District 21**



# School Safety Mapping

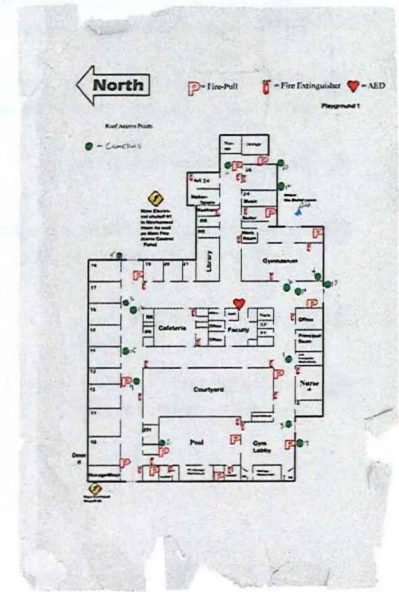
Emergency Response Mapping Data for School Safety

## The Problem

All too often emergencies take place in publicly accessible buildings like a place of worship, a hospital, a shopping center or a school and our nation's first responders are called on to respond.

These emergencies range from individuals experiencing minor medical issues to an active threat situation that results in a mass casualty event. When authorities arrive to the scene it is likely they have never visited that location and are unfamiliar with the layout of the facility. In situations of life and death, every second matters and we need to provide the data required for our nation's first responders to respond and navigate efficiently even if they are unfamiliar with the building.

Further complicating the issue is most facility blueprints and building schematics on file are inaccurate, unlabeled, and not compatible with the technical platforms in use by public safety. This is forcing our responders to respond into buildings that they are unfamiliar with and without any data to assist their efforts.



## Proposed Solution

School Safety Mapping Data is a technique that was initially derived by the US Military special operations to navigate and communicate in unfamiliar locations.

The mapping technique has now been converted and implemented across 1000's of schools, hospitals, airports, and other buildings across the country. Several states (New Jersey, Wisconsin, Virginia, Michigan) have passed or are currently passing legislation to utilize this tool for schools and government buildings.

Schools can use grants or other funding mechanisms to offset the cost of mapping their campuses. These maps are kept on file and made readily available for incidents like school shootings. In each state effort, the legislation was bipartisan and passed unanimously.



As part of Act 109, Wisconsin already requires that schools submit a copy of the most recent blueprints or critical incident mapping data for all of its facilities to each local law enforcement agency with jurisdiction over the private school and to the office of school safety. Critical Response Group has provided these maps for approximately 1,000 Wisconsin Schools. Roughly 50% of schools districts likely still have unsatisfactory plans to provide to public safety.

- ✓ Be compatible with software platforms used by a local, state, and require federal public safety agency that provides emergency services.
- ✓ It must not require the purchase of additional software or an integration to review the data.
- ✓ Be provided in a printable format.
- ✓ Be verified for accuracy through a walk-through of a school building and school grounds.
- ✓ Be oriented to true north.
- ✓ Contain a grid system to ensure easy communication by all responders

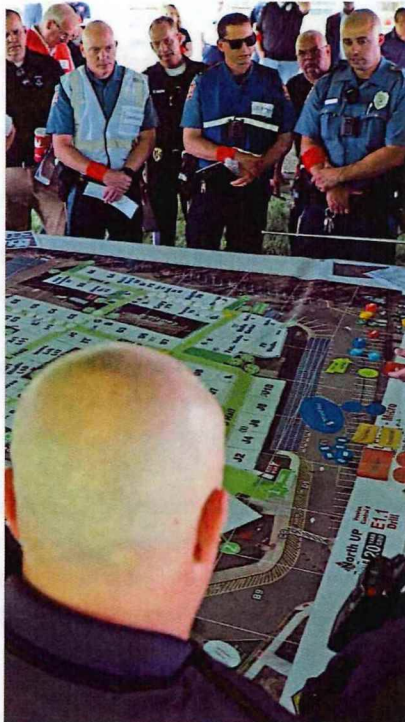


## Over 126 School Districts Totaling 1100 Wisconsin Schools Mapped

### Wisconsin School Districts:

Green Bay Unified, Racine, Appleton, Middleton Cross-Plains, Sun Prairie, Neenah, Menasha, Stoughton, Waukesha, Wauwatosa, Lake Delton, Portage, Baraboo, Xavier Catholic School System, Seton Catholic Schools, Sheboygan, Altoona, Beloit, Verona, and many more

**Emergency response mapping data** would mean information provided in an electronic or digital format to assist law enforcement or emergency first responders in an emergency. The information provided would have to include at least all of the following:



- ✓ Accurate floor plans overlaid on, or current aerial imagery of, a school building or school plan.
- ✓ Site-specific labeling that matches the structure of the school building, including the following:
  - Room labels
  - Hallway names
  - External door or stairwell numbers
  - Locations of hazards
  - Key utility locations
  - Key boxes
- ✓ Site-specific labeling that matches the school grounds, including parking areas, athletic fields, surrounding roads, and neighboring properties.
- ✓ Gridded overlay with x/y coordinates

### States that Passed Unanimous Legislation:

Wisconsin  
Michigan  
New Jersey  
Virginia  
Illinois  
Delaware  
Florida  
Texas