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1 **HOUSE BILL NO. 592**

2 Offered January 14, 2026

3 Prefiled January 13, 2026

4 *A BILL to amend the Code of Virginia by adding a section numbered 22.1-79.4:1, relating to public schools;*
5 *wearable panic alarm systems; grant program.*

6 Patron—Simonds

7 Committee Referral Pending

8 **Be it enacted by the General Assembly of Virginia:**9 **1. That the Code of Virginia is amended by adding a section numbered 22.1-79.4:1 as follows:**10 **§ 22.1-79.4:1. Wearable panic alarm system; grant program.**11 **A. As used in this section:**12 *"School security emergency" includes a non-fire evacuation, lockdown, medical emergency, or active*
13 *shooter situation.*14 *"Wearable panic alarm system" means a security system that is capable of being worn on the body of the*
15 *user and by which the user manually activates a device that sends (i) a signal to the local 9-1-1 public safety*
16 *answering point that indicates a school security emergency that requires immediate response and assistance*
17 *from such public safety answering point and (ii) a multisensory schoolwide school security emergency*
18 *notification, when appropriate.*19 **B. Any school board may provide any school board employee in a public elementary and secondary**
20 **school building in the local school division with a wearable panic alarm system.**21 **C. With such funds as may be provided for such purpose pursuant to the general appropriation act, the**
22 **Department shall establish and administer a grant program whereby school divisions with demonstrated**
23 **need apply for a grant on a competitive basis to cover or defer the cost of providing a wearable panic alarm**
24 **system pursuant to subsection B.**25 **2. That the provisions of this act shall become effective beginning with the 2026–2027 school year.**

INTRODUCED

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