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Governor Brown Signs Bill to Provide Protection to Students/Teachers During Threats

Assembly Bill 3205 Requires Renovation of Schools to Include Locks That Lock from the Inside

(SACRAMENTO) – Assembly Bill 3205 by Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell (D – Long Beach), which requires older classrooms to have locks that can be locked from the inside, has been signed by Governor Jerry Brown.

“This bill will protect students and teachers in the event of an immediate threat on a school campus,” said Assemblymember O’Donnell, Chair of the Assembly Education Committee. “As a middle and high school teacher for many years, I have participated in many school lockdowns, and I know firsthand that our classrooms need doors that lock from the inside. The shootings that took place in Florida and Texas schools earlier this year were tragic. This bill will save lives. I thank the Governor for signing AB 3205 into law.”

“Ensuring the safety of our students and education professionals is a top priority of the California Federation of Teachers,” said Joshua Pechthalt, President of the California Federation of Teachers, the sponsor of the bill. “We have led the fight for safer schools for years. We applaud the Governor for signing this important piece of legislation and commend Assemblymember O’Donnell for his leadership on this critical issue.”

Current law requires all schools built after 2012 to have locks that lock from the inside of classrooms. In the event of a campus emergency, teachers in older schools without inside locks must go outside to lock their doors. AB 3205 better protects these teachers and students by requiring inside door locks on modernization projects seeking state school bond funds.

The new law takes effect January 1, 2019.

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Assemblymember Patrick O’Donnell represents the 70th Assembly District, which includes Long Beach, Signal Hill, San Pedro and Catalina Island.