



**Rep. Greg Martin**

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**House of Representatives  
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**NASHVILLE**

**Committee Member**

Transportation Committee  
Government Operations  
Committee  
Local Government  
Committee  
Property & Planning  
Subcommittee

House Bill 0127 that I am sponsoring, and the companion bill that Senator Watson is sponsoring, was brought to me by Hamilton County School Board Attorney, Scott Bennett.

The purpose of the bill is to protect special needs students in an emergency situation from harming themselves or others. This bill allows *trained* School Security Officers to restrain a student in an emergency situation in the same manner that a School Resource Officer or other law enforcement officers are permitted to restrain students in a similar emergency situation.

The Hamilton County Sheriff's Office has not been able to staff all the needs of the school system with SROs. Consequently, the school system has pivoted to employee trained SSOs to meet their security needs. No one wants to see any student placed in restraints, but unfortunately there are situations where it may be necessary in order to ensure everyone's safety. This bill simply helps the school system to continue to serve and protect our most vulnerable children when an emergency situation arises.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Martin". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Martin