

By: Thierry, Bonnen, Patterson, et al.

H.B. No. 204

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 204:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 204

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools providing panic alert devices in classrooms.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Alyssa's Law.

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 37.116 and 37.117 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.116. PANIC ALERT DEVICE. (a) Except as provided by Section 37.117, each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide each classroom in the district or school with a panic alert device that allows for immediate contact with district emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments.

(b) A panic alert device provided by a school district or open-enrollment charter school under this section does not satisfy the requirement under Section 37.108(a)(2) for the district or school to ensure employees have classroom access to a telephone or another electronic communication device.

(c) To comply with this section, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may:

(1) use funds provided to the district or school through the school safety allotment under Section 42.168 or other available funds; and

(2) use the district's or school's customary

1 procurement process.

2 Sec. 37.117. PANIC ALERT DEVICE OPT-OUT RESOLUTION. The  
3 board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an  
4 open-enrollment charter school may elect not to provide panic alert  
5 devices as required by Section 37.116 if the board or governing body  
6 determines that the district or school does not have sufficient  
7 money available to provide the devices. An election made under this  
8 section must be authorized by a resolution adopted by majority vote  
9 of the board or governing body in an open meeting.

10 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024  
11 school year.

12 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.