

By: Rogers

H.B. No. 2557

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a school security volunteer program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.0817 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.0817. SCHOOL SECURITY VOLUNTEER PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Honorably retired" has the meaning assigned by Section 411.199(c), Government Code.

(2) "Qualified retired law enforcement officer" means a person who:

(A) meets the qualifications provided by 18 U.S.C. Section 926C(c); and

(B) is honorably retired.

(3) "Veteran" has the meaning assigned by Section 521.1235, Transportation Code.

(b) The board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school may approve a program under which the district or school provides written regulations or written authorization for eligible persons to serve as school security volunteers by:

(1) providing security services for the district or school on school grounds, including any location in which an activity sponsored by the district or school is being conducted,

1 and in school vehicles; and

2 (2) carrying a handgun in providing the security
3 services under Subdivision (1).

4 (c) A person is eligible to serve as a school security
5 volunteer for a program approved under this section only if:

6 (1) the person is not:

7 (A) an employee of the district or school;

8 (B) a contractor providing services under a
9 contract with the district or school; or

10 (C) a person who otherwise receives compensation
11 or remuneration from the district or school; and

12 (2) the person is:

13 (A) a qualified retired law enforcement officer;

14 or

15 (B) a veteran.

16 (d) A school district that approves a program under this
17 section must include the program in the district's multihazard
18 emergency operations plan required under Section 37.108. An
19 open-enrollment charter school that approves a program under this
20 section must adopt and implement measures to ensure, in an
21 emergency, coordination with the Department of State Health
22 Services and local emergency management agencies, law enforcement
23 agencies, health departments, and fire departments.

24 (e) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
25 that approves a program under this section must provide to each
26 school security volunteer a course of instruction on the safety and
27 security policies of the district or school. A district must

1 include instruction about the district's multihazard emergency
2 operations plan adopted under Section 37.108.

3 (f) A school security volunteer is immune from civil
4 liability to the same extent as a professional employee of a school
5 district under Section 22.0511. This subsection does not limit the
6 liability of a person for intentional misconduct or gross
7 negligence.

8 SECTION 2. Subchapter N, Chapter 1702, Occupations Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 1702.334 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 1702.334. SCHOOL SECURITY VOLUNTEERS. This chapter
11 does not apply to a person who serves as a school security volunteer
12 for a school district or open-enrollment charter school under a
13 program adopted under Section 37.0817, Education Code.

14 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies
15 beginning with the 2021-2022 school year.

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