

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 72

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the instruction about bullying and harassment in the required health curriculum for public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002(s), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(s) In this subsection, "bullying" has the meaning assigned by Section 37.0832 and "harassment" has the meaning assigned by Section 37.001. In addition to any other essential knowledge and skills the State Board of Education adopts for the health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the board shall adopt for the health curriculum, in consultation with the Texas School Safety Center, essential knowledge and skills that include evidence-based practices that will effectively:

(1) address awareness, prevention, identification, self-defense in response to, and resolution of and intervention in bullying and harassment; and

(2) teach respect for another person's bodily autonomy and confidence in protecting one's own bodily autonomy.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.