

By: Schatzline

H.B. No. 1370

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring a single entrance to a public school campus;  
creating a criminal offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.1051 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.1051. SINGLE ENTRANCE REQUIRED; OFFENSE. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a policy that:

(1) limits public entry to each district or school campus to a single entrance; and

(2) requires each external door to a district or school campus, other than the entrance designated under Subdivision (1), to be closed and locked to entry.

(b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall post on each external door to a district or school campus, other than the entrance designated under Subsection (a)(1), a conspicuous sign that states that:

(1) the door is not a public entrance and may not be:

(A) used to allow another person to enter; or

(B) left open, unsecured, and unattended; and

(2) use of the door in a manner described by Subdivision (1) may constitute an offense under this section.

(c) A person commits an offense if the person knowingly

1 opens an external door to a school district or open-enrollment  
2 charter school campus, other than the entrance designated under  
3 Subsection (a)(1), and:

4 (1) allows another person to enter the campus through  
5 that door; or

6 (2) leaves the door open, unsecured, and unattended.

7 (d) An offense under Subsection (c) is a state jail felony.

8 (e) It is a defense to prosecution under Subsection (c) that  
9 at the time of the offense the person was acting:

10 (1) in response to an emergency situation at the  
11 school district or open-enrollment charter school campus; and

12 (2) in the person's capacity as:

13 (A) a school district or open-enrollment charter  
14 school peace officer, school resource officer, security personnel  
15 member, or school marshal;

16 (B) a peace officer;

17 (C) a first responder or volunteer emergency  
18 services personnel, as those terms are defined by Section 46.01,  
19 Penal Code;

20 (D) an emergency medical services volunteer, as  
21 defined by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code; or

22 (E) the parent of or person standing in parental  
23 relation to a student inside the campus.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.