

By: King of Hemphill

H.B. No. 4406

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating the State School Safety Fund to provide financial support for projects that enhance the safety of schools in this state.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 48.304 to read as follows:

Section 48.304. EXCESS FUNDS FOR STATE SCHOOL SAFETY FUND.

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including Section 48.265 to the contrary, if the commissioner of education determines that the amount appropriated for the purposes of the Foundation School Program exceeds the amount to which school districts are entitled under Chapters 46, 48 and 49, Education Code, the commissioner shall designate a portion of the excess funds, up to 100 percent of the excess funds to be transferred to the State School Safety Fund under Article VII, Section 7, of the Texas Constitution.

(b) The Commissioner shall then establish an annual school safety grant program that is funded through proceeds from the State School Safety Fund.

(c) Total grants awarded under this section may not exceed \$250 million per school year.

(d) Grants awarded under this section must only be used to reimburse school districts for expenditures required to implement a

1 school safety plan that has been approved by the agency.

2 (e) Grants awarded under this section shall be limited to
3 \$10 million per district. If there are more than \$250 million in
4 requests for reimbursements, the commissioner shall
5 proportionately reduce all grant awards so that the total equals
6 \$250 million. If there are any funds left over in a given school
7 year after all eligible districts have been awarded grants, then
8 these excess funds may be used to provide a second round of funding
9 to school districts who had expenditures in excess of \$10 million in
10 a given school year.

11 (f) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement and
12 administer this section.

13 (g) This section is effective beginning with the 2024-2025
14 school year.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2024, but only
16 if the constitutional amendment proposed by the 88th Legislature,
17 Regular Session, 2023, creating the State School Safety Fund to
18 provide financial support for projects that enhance the safety of
19 schools in this state is approved by the voters. If that amendment
20 is not approved by the voters, this Act has no effect.