

By: Goodwin

H.B. No. 687

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the establishment of a bullying prevention pilot  
3 program for public schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 37.0833 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 37.0833. BULLYING PREVENTION PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In  
8 this section:

9 (1) "Bullying" has the meaning assigned by Section  
10 37.0832.

11 (2) "Pilot program" means the bullying prevention  
12 pilot program established under this section.

13 (b) The agency shall:

14 (1) develop a bullying prevention pilot program to  
15 reduce incidents of bullying on public school campuses; and

16 (2) award grants to eligible school districts to  
17 implement the pilot program on district campuses.

18 (c) In developing the pilot program under Subsection (b),  
19 the agency shall:

20 (1) use research-based best practices for the  
21 prevention of bullying; and

22 (2) collaborate with qualified experts and  
23 researchers with experience in child and youth psychology, mental  
24 health, and education.

1       (d) From money appropriated for the purpose, the  
2 commissioner shall award grants to school districts that  
3 demonstrate a substantial need for bullying prevention, as  
4 determined by the commissioner. A school district that is awarded a  
5 grant under this subsection shall implement the pilot program at  
6 not more than three campuses in the district.

7       (e) The agency shall use money appropriated for purposes of  
8 the pilot program under this section to provide technical  
9 assistance to grant recipients. The agency may provide technical  
10 assistance through regional education service centers.

11       (f) The commissioner shall:

12               (1) establish application criteria for a school  
13 district to apply to receive a grant under this section; and

14               (2) determine allowable uses of grant money by a  
15 school district under this section.

16       (g) The commissioner may use money otherwise available and  
17 may solicit or accept grants or donations to implement this  
18 section.

19       (h) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
20 implement this section.

21       (i) The commissioner is not required to develop the pilot  
22 program or award grants under this section unless money is  
23 specifically appropriated for that purpose.

24       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.