

By: Gervin-Hawkins

H.B. No. 785

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the adoption of a healthy and safe school water plan by public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.037 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.037. HEALTHY AND SAFE SCHOOL WATER PLAN. (a) In this section:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

(2) "Water source" means any running water tap that is used for drinking or food preparation.

(b) Each school district shall adopt a healthy and safe school water plan in accordance with rules adopted by the commission under Subsection (c). The plan must include provisions for:

(1) periodic testing for lead in school water sources;  
and

(2) reducing exposure to elevated levels of lead in school water sources.

(c) The commission shall adopt rules to provide guidance to school districts on the adoption of a healthy and safe school water plan under this section. The rules adopted must be at least as protective as the technical guidance for reducing lead in drinking

1 water in schools developed by the United States Environmental  
2 Protection Agency.

3 (d) If the results of a school water source test for lead  
4 show elevated levels of lead, the school district must restrict  
5 access to the water source within 48 hours of learning of the test  
6 results. The district must determine and mitigate the source of the  
7 lead contamination before access to the water source is returned to  
8 normal.

9 (e) Each school district shall:

10 (1) maintain records for each school water source,  
11 including:

12 (A) the location of the water source; and

13 (B) the date and results of each test conducted  
14 under Subsection (b)(1) for lead in the water source;

15 (2) submit a copy of the records described by  
16 Subdivision (1) to the commission not less than once every four  
17 years; and

18 (3) post the information described by Subdivision (1)  
19 on the district's Internet website.

20 (f) Each school district shall notify the parent or legal  
21 guardian of each student enrolled in the district and each district  
22 employee of:

23 (1) the results of each test conducted under  
24 Subsection (b)(1) for lead in a school water source not later than  
25 24 hours after learning of the test results; and

26 (2) the accessibility of information regarding school  
27 water source tests on the district's Internet website at least once

1 each school year.

2 (g) Each school district shall designate an employee to act  
3 as the point of contact for the commission and the public regarding  
4 testing for lead in school water sources under this section.

5 (h) The agency, in collaboration with the commission, the  
6 Department of State Health Services, regional education service  
7 centers, and other stakeholders, shall develop a model healthy and  
8 safe school water plan that a school district may use to comply with  
9 the requirements of this section.

10 (i) To the extent that funds are available to the agency for  
11 the purpose, the agency shall develop a program under which the  
12 agency reimburses a school district for testing lead concentrations  
13 in school water sources.

14 SECTION 2. (a) Not later than December 31, 2025, the Texas  
15 Education Agency shall develop the model healthy and safe school  
16 water plan required by Section 38.037, Education Code, as added by  
17 this Act.

18 (b) Not later than September 1, 2026, each school district  
19 and open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a healthy and safe  
20 school water plan as required by Section 38.037, Education Code, as  
21 added by this Act, and Section 12.104(b)(3)(K), Education Code, as  
22 applicable.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.