

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 159

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to an education and training program for certain public
3 transportation vehicle operators on interacting with and
4 supporting individuals with intellectual and developmental
5 disabilities.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 451, Transportation Code,
8 is amended by adding Section 451.114 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 451.114. REQUIRED EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM ON
10 INDIVIDUALS WITH INTELLECTUAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES:
11 CERTAIN AUTHORITIES. (a) This section applies only to an authority
12 created before 1980 in which the principal municipality has a
13 population of less than 1.9 million.

14 (b) An authority shall establish an education and training
15 program on interacting with and supporting individuals with
16 intellectual and developmental disabilities, including individuals
17 with autism spectrum disorder, for employees of the authority who
18 operate vehicles used to provide public transportation services for
19 the authority. The program must include instruction relating to:

20 (1) identifying and communicating with individuals
21 with intellectual or developmental disabilities, including
22 individuals with autism spectrum disorder; and

23 (2) assisting an individual with an intellectual or
24 developmental disability, including an individual with an autism

1 spectrum disorder, to safely enter and exit a vehicle used to
2 provide public transportation services.

3 (c) An authority, or a person with whom the authority
4 contracts, may not allow an employee to operate a vehicle used to
5 provide public transportation services for the authority unless the
6 employee has completed the training program established by the
7 authority under this section.

8 SECTION 2. Not later than March 1, 2026, a rapid transit
9 authority shall establish the training program required by Section
10 451.114, Transportation Code, as added by this Act.

11 SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
12 section, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

13 (b) Section 451.114(c), Transportation Code, as added by
14 this Act, takes effect September 1, 2026.