

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 998

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a pilot program establishing a safe schools unit in the  
3 Department of Public Safety.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 411, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 411.0203 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 411.0203. SAFE SCHOOLS UNIT. (a) The commission shall  
8 establish a safe schools unit pilot program in the department for  
9 the 2004-2005 school year to provide school districts in counties  
10 that participate in the program with information and other  
11 assistance concerning the issues of juvenile delinquency, juvenile  
12 substance abuse, and other law enforcement issues that affect  
13 school districts.

14 (b) Not later than February 1, 2004, the director shall  
15 select five counties to participate in the pilot program. The  
16 director may select only a county that has a population of less than  
17 500,000. At least one of the counties the director selects must  
18 have a population of more than 150,000, be located along the  
19 southern portion of the border between this state and Mexico, and  
20 contain a municipality with a population of more than 175,000. Each  
21 school district in a participating county shall participate in the  
22 pilot program.

23 (c) The director shall administer the pilot program and  
24 adopt rules to implement and administer the program. In adopting

1 rules, the director shall ensure that the pilot program addresses  
2 law enforcement issues that affect school districts, including the  
3 prevention of and intervention in juvenile delinquency and  
4 substance abuse.

5 (d) This section expires August 31, 2005.

6 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
7 of this Act, the public safety director shall adopt rules as  
8 necessary to implement Section 411.0203, Government Code, as added  
9 by this Act.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.