

By: Madden

H.B. No. 426

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to standards for the operation of school district disciplinary alternative education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 37.008, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (a-2) to read as follows:

(a-1) The agency shall adopt minimum standards for the operation of disciplinary alternative education programs, including standards relating to:

(1) student/teacher ratios;

(2) student health and safety;

(3) reporting of abuse, neglect, or exploitation of students;

(4) training for teachers in behavior management and safety procedures; and

(5) planning for a student's transition from a disciplinary alternative education program to a regular campus.

(a-2) Not later than December 15, 2008, the agency shall deliver a report to the legislature that provides the estimated costs to the agency of enforcing the standards adopted under Subsection (a-1), including the estimated cost of on-site monitoring to enforce the standards. This subsection expires January 15, 2009.

SECTION 2. Standards for the operation of school district

1 disciplinary alternative education programs adopted under Section  
2 37.008(a-1), Education Code, as added by this Act, apply beginning  
3 with the 2007-2008 school year.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.