

By: Carona

S.B. No. 1079

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to school bus safety; creating an offense.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code, is amended by adding Section 545.426 to read as follows:

Sec. 545.426. OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUS. (a) A person may not operate a school bus if:

(1) the door of the school bus is open; or

(2) the number of passengers on the bus is greater than the manufacturer's design capacity for the bus.

(b) An operator of a school bus, while operating the bus, may prohibit a passenger from:

(1) standing in the bus; or

(2) sitting:

(A) on the floor of the bus; or

(B) in any location on the bus that is not designed as a seat.

(c) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer and enforce this section.

SECTION 2. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 34.0021 to read as follows:

Sec. 34.0021. SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION TRAINING.

(a) Pursuant to the safety standards established by the Department of Public Safety under Section 34.002, each school district shall

1 conduct a training session for students and teachers concerning
2 procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.

3 (b) A school district shall conduct the school bus emergency
4 evacuation training at least twice each school year, with one
5 training session occurring in the fall and one training session
6 occurring in the spring. A training session must occur on a school
7 bus and last for at least one hour.

8 (c) The school bus emergency evacuation training must be
9 based on the recommendations of the most recent edition of the
10 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, as
11 adopted by the National Congress on School Transportation, or a
12 similar school transportation safety manual.

13 (d) Not later than the 30th day after the date that a school
14 district completes a training session, the district shall provide
15 the Department of Public Safety with a record certifying the
16 district's completion of the training.

17 (e) The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules
18 necessary to implement this section.

19 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act by adding
20 Section 34.0021, Education Code, applies beginning with the
21 2007-2008 school year.

22 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.