

1-1 By: Carona S.B. No. 1079
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 2, 2007; March 14, 2007, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Transportation and Homeland
1-4 Security; April 3, 2007, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 April 3, 2007, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1079 By: Carona

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to school bus safety; creating an offense.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 545, Transportation Code,
1-13 is amended by adding Section 545.426 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 545.426. OPERATION OF SCHOOL BUS. (a) A person may
1-15 not operate a school bus if:

1-16 (1) the door of the school bus is open; or

1-17 (2) the number of passengers on the bus is greater than
1-18 the manufacturer's design capacity for the bus.

1-19 (b) An operator of a school bus, while operating the bus,
1-20 may prohibit a passenger from:

1-21 (1) standing in the bus; or

1-22 (2) sitting:

1-23 (A) on the floor of the bus; or

1-24 (B) in any location on the bus that is not
1-25 designed as a seat.

1-26 (c) The department may adopt rules necessary to administer
1-27 and enforce this section.

1-28 SECTION 2. Chapter 34, Education Code, is amended by adding
1-29 Section 34.0021 to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 34.0021. SCHOOL BUS EMERGENCY EVACUATION TRAINING.

1-31 (a) Pursuant to the safety standards established by the Department
1-32 of Public Safety under Section 34.002, each school district shall
1-33 conduct a training session for students and teachers concerning
1-34 procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.

1-35 (b) A school district shall conduct the school bus emergency
1-36 evacuation training at least twice each school year, with one
1-37 training session occurring in the fall and one training session
1-38 occurring in the spring. A training session must occur on a school
1-39 bus and last for at least one hour.

1-40 (c) The school bus emergency evacuation training must be
1-41 based on the recommendations of the most recent edition of the
1-42 National School Transportation Specifications and Procedures, as
1-43 adopted by the National Congress on School Transportation, or a
1-44 similar school transportation safety manual.

1-45 (d) Not later than the 30th day after the date that a school
1-46 district completes a training session, the district shall provide
1-47 the Department of Public Safety with a record certifying the
1-48 district's completion of the training.

1-49 (e) The Department of Public Safety may adopt rules
1-50 necessary to implement this section.

1-51 SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act by adding
1-52 Section 34.0021, Education Code, applies beginning with the
1-53 2007-2008 school year.

1-54 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.

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