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et al.

H.B. No. 374

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to school bus emergency evacuation training.

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

SECTION 1. Section 34.0021, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(a) Pursuant to the safety standards established by the Department of Public Safety under Section 34.002, each school district may ~~[shall]~~ conduct a training session for students and teachers concerning procedures for evacuating a school bus during an emergency.

(b) A school district that chooses to conduct a training session under Subsection (a) is encouraged to ~~[shall]~~ conduct the school bus emergency evacuation training session ~~[at least twice each school year, with one training session occurring]~~ in the fall of the school year ~~[and one training session occurring in the spring]~~. The school district is also encouraged to structure the training session so that a [A] portion of the ~~[training]~~ session occurs ~~[must occur]~~ on a school bus and the ~~[training]~~ session lasts ~~[must last]~~ for at least one hour.

(c-1) Immediately before each field trip involving transportation by school bus, a school district is encouraged to review school bus emergency evacuation procedures with the school bus passengers, including a demonstration of the school bus

1 emergency exits and the safe manner to exit.

2 SECTION 2. Sections 34.0021(d) and (e), Education Code, are
3 repealed.

4 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
5 school year.

6 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
7 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
8 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
9 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
10 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.