

By: Dutton, Edwards

H.B. No. 999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the closure of a school campus by the board of trustees of certain school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 11.174 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.174. CAMPUS CLOSURE. (a) This section applies only to a school district with an enrollment of more than 155,000.

(b) Before ordering the closure of a school campus, the board of trustees of a school district shall hold a public hearing at which residents of the district may comment on the proposed closure.

(c) Not later than the 14th day before the date of the hearing, the board must:

(1) provide written notice of the hearing to the parent of or person standing in parental relation to each student affected by the closure; and

(2) publish notice of the hearing in a newspaper of general circulation in the district.

(d) The notice of the hearing required by Subsection (c) must include:

(1) the subject matter of the hearing, including the reason for the proposed closure; and

(2) the location, date, and time of the hearing.

1       (e) Following a hearing under Subsection (b), the board  
2 shall vote on the proposed closure. If the board votes to close a  
3 school campus, the board shall send the results of the vote to the  
4 commissioner for approval.

5       (f) The board may not order the closure of a school campus  
6 without first obtaining the approval of the commissioner for the  
7 closure. The commissioner shall approve or deny the board's  
8 request for approval under this subsection not later than the 30th  
9 day after the date the commissioner receives the request. If the  
10 commissioner fails to act within the time prescribed by this  
11 subsection, the request is considered approved.

12       (g) The board may not order the closure of a school campus  
13 for which a campus intervention team has been appointed under  
14 Section 39.1322(b) until:

15               (1) the campus intervention team has:

16                       (A) completed the comprehensive on-site  
17 evaluation required under Section 39.1323(a)(1) and the  
18 comprehensive on-site needs assessment under Section 39.1323(b);

19                       (B) made recommendations as provided by Sections  
20 39.1323(a)(2) and (c); and

21                       (C) assisted in the development of a school  
22 improvement plan for student achievement as required under Section  
23 39.1323(a)(3);

24               (2) the campus has received any financial or other  
25 assistance determined necessary under the evaluation process to  
26 implement the school improvement plan; and

27               (3) the campus has two complete school years during

1 which to implement the school improvement plan.

2 (h) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
3 implement this section.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.