

By: Walle

H.B. No. 348

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to education and training for school district peace  
3 officers, school resource officers, and school security personnel  
4 employed by a school district.

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

6 SECTION 1. The heading to Subchapter M, Chapter 1701,  
7 Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER M. SCHOOL [VISITING] RESOURCE OFFICERS AND [OFFICER IN  
9 PUBLIC] SCHOOL DISTRICT PEACE OFFICERS

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter M, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is  
11 amended by adding Sections 1701.604 and 1701.605 to read as  
12 follows:

13 Sec. 1701.604. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) A peace  
14 officer may not serve as a school resource officer unless the  
15 officer has completed a 20-hour education and training program  
16 administered by the commission.

17 (b) The Texas Education Agency, in consultation with the  
18 commission, shall develop the curriculum for the education and  
19 training program. The commission must approve the curriculum  
20 before the commission administers the program.

21 (c) The curriculum for the education and training program  
22 must incorporate learning objectives regarding:

- 23 (1) child and adolescent development and psychology;  
24 (2) positive behavioral interventions and supports,

1 conflict resolution techniques, and restorative justice  
2 techniques;

3 (3) force usage limitations, including physical  
4 restraint, and de-escalation techniques;

5 (4) children with disabilities or special needs; and

6 (5) cultural competency.

7 (d) The education and training program may be provided as an  
8 online course. The commission may offer the education and training  
9 program as part of the training program maintained under Subchapter  
10 F.

11 (e) The Texas Education Agency, in consultation with the  
12 commission, shall review the education and training program,  
13 including the curriculum developed under Subsection (b), at least  
14 once every 24 months.

15 (f) A school district may provide additional,  
16 commission-approved preparatory education or training to its  
17 school resource officers and school district peace officers.

18 Sec. 1701.605. CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a) As part of the  
19 continuing education required by Section 1701.351, each school  
20 resource officer and school district peace officer shall complete  
21 at least eight hours of continuing education described by this  
22 section.

23 (b) The commission shall provide to school resource  
24 officers or school district peace officers continuing education  
25 that incorporates the learning objectives specified under Section  
26 1701.604(c). The continuing education may be provided online.

27 (c) Notwithstanding Section 1701.351(a), the commission may

1 not suspend the license of a peace officer solely because the peace  
2 officer fails to meet the requirements of this section.

3 (d) Notwithstanding Section 1701.351(c), a school resource  
4 officer or school district peace officer who serves at least 12  
5 months in the United States military or as an elected member of the  
6 legislature during a period for which the officer is required to  
7 complete continuing education under this section must complete the  
8 required continuing education not later than the second anniversary  
9 of the date the officer returns to work at a school district.

10 SECTION 3. Section 37.081, Education Code, is amended by  
11 adding Subsections (i) and (j) to read as follows:

12 (i) A person may not be employed as security personnel for a  
13 school district unless the person has successfully completed the  
14 education and training program under Section 1701.604, Occupations  
15 Code.

16 (j) Except as provided by Section 1701.605(d), Occupations  
17 Code, a person employed or under contract as security personnel  
18 under this section must successfully complete the continuing  
19 education described by Section 1701.605, Occupations Code, to  
20 continue to serve as security personnel for a school district.

21 SECTION 4. Not later than December 31, 2011, the Texas  
22 Education Agency shall develop the curriculum for the education and  
23 training program as required by Section 1701.604(b), Occupations  
24 Code, as added by this Act.

25 SECTION 5. Not later than March 31, 2012, the Commission on  
26 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall adopt rules  
27 for the administration of the education and training program

1 required by Section 1701.604, Occupations Code, as added by this  
2 Act, and for providing continuing education required by Section  
3 1701.605, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

4 SECTION 6. (a) Section 1701.604, Occupations Code, as  
5 added by this Act, and Section 37.081, Education Code, as amended by  
6 this Act, apply only to a school district peace officer, school  
7 resource officer, or security personnel member who is initially  
8 appointed, commissioned, or employed by a school district to serve  
9 in that capacity on or after March 31, 2012.

10 (b) A school district peace officer or school resource  
11 officer serving in that capacity immediately before the effective  
12 date of this Act is not required to comply with the continuing  
13 education requirements described by Section 1701.605, Occupations  
14 Code, as added by this Act, for any license renewal that occurs  
15 before January 1, 2014.

16 (c) A person employed by a school district as security  
17 personnel immediately before the effective date of this Act is not  
18 required to comply with Section 37.081(j), Education Code, as added  
19 by this Act, as a condition of continued employment in that capacity  
20 before January 1, 2014.

21 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.