

1-1 By: Pena (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) H.B. No. 2758
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 4, 2011;
1-3 May 5, 2011, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher
1-4 Education; May 19, 2011, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 2011, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to mandatory emergency alert systems at institutions of
1-9 higher education.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
1-12 amended by adding Section 51.218 to read as follows:

1-13 Sec. 51.218. EMERGENCY ALERT SYSTEM. (a) In this section,
1-14 "institution of higher education" and "private or independent
1-15 institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by
1-16 Section 61.003.

1-17 (b) Each institution of higher education and private or
1-18 independent institution of higher education shall establish an
1-19 emergency alert system for the institution's students and staff,
1-20 including faculty. The emergency alert system must use e-mail or
1-21 telephone notifications in addition to any other alert method the
1-22 institution considers appropriate to provide timely notification
1-23 of emergencies affecting the institution or its students and staff.

1-24 (c) At the time a student initially enrolls or registers for
1-25 courses or a staff member begins employment, the institution shall:

1-26 (1) obtain a personal telephone number or e-mail
1-27 address from the student or staff member to be used to notify the
1-28 individual in the event of an emergency; and

1-29 (2) register the student or staff member in the
1-30 institution's emergency alert system.

1-31 (d) A student or staff member may elect not to participate
1-32 in an emergency alert system established under this section. An
1-33 election under this subsection may be submitted electronically or
1-34 in writing, as chosen by the institution, and must be renewed at the
1-35 start of each academic year.

1-36 (e) The personal identifying information obtained from an
1-37 individual for the purpose of the emergency alert system of an
1-38 institution of higher education, including an e-mail address or
1-39 telephone number, is confidential and not subject to disclosure
1-40 under Section 552.021, Government Code.

1-41 (f) Each institution of higher education and private or
1-42 independent institution of higher education shall implement the
1-43 emergency alert system required by this section not later than the
1-44 spring 2012 semester. This subsection expires June 1, 2012.

1-45 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-46 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-47 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-48 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-49 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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