

By: Walle

H.B. No. 917

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to education and training for certain school district peace officers and school resource officers.

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

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

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

SECTION 2. Subchapter M, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.604 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.604. EDUCATION AND TRAINING PROGRAM. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this section applies only to:

(1) a school district peace officer commissioned under Section 37.081, Education Code; or

(2) a school resource officer, as defined by Section 1701.601.

(b) This section does not apply to a peace officer while the peace officer is assigned to a school-sponsored event at which formal classroom instruction is not offered.

(c) A peace officer may not serve as a school district peace officer or as a school resource officer for longer than a period of 90 days unless the peace officer has completed a 24-hour or longer education and training program approved by the commission under this section, except as provided by Subsection (d), and has

1 received a certificate under Subsection (e). This subsection
2 applies only after the commission determines that regular and
3 online education and training courses are available in the major
4 regions of this state.

5 (d) A peace officer who has received comparable education
6 and training through the Bexar County children's crisis
7 intervention training program or the Texas School Safety Center at
8 Texas State University is not required to complete the education
9 and training program approved by the commission under this section
10 to serve as a school district peace officer or school resource
11 officer.

12 (e) The commission shall issue a professional achievement
13 or proficiency certificate to a peace officer on successful
14 completion of an education and training program:

15 (1) approved by the commission under this section; or

16 (2) described by Subsection (d).

17 (f) The commission shall appoint 14 members to a school
18 resource curriculum committee to develop the curriculum for the
19 education and training program under this section. The school
20 resource curriculum committee shall be composed as follows:

21 (1) one representative of the Bexar County children's
22 crisis intervention training program;

23 (2) one representative of the Texas School Safety
24 Center at Texas State University;

25 (3) one representative of the commission;

26 (4) one representative of the Texas Municipal Police
27 Association;

1 (5) one representative of the Combined Law Enforcement
2 Associations of Texas;

3 (6) one behavior analyst certified by the Behavior
4 Analyst Certification Board who has experience serving as a
5 behavior analyst in an educational setting;

6 (7) one representative of the Texas Education Agency;

7 (8) one representative of a local mental health
8 authority, as defined by Section 571.003, Health and Safety Code;

9 (9) a peace officer with certification in crisis
10 intervention;

11 (10) a school district peace officer;

12 (11) one representative of an organization that
13 advocates for juvenile justice;

14 (12) one representative of an organization that
15 advocates for civil liberties;

16 (13) one representative of an organization
17 representing parents of public school students; and

18 (14) one representative of the Texas School District
19 Police Chiefs' Association.

20 (g) Members of the school resource curriculum committee
21 serve terms of two years.

22 (h) The school resource curriculum committee shall develop
23 the curriculum for the education and training program under this
24 section based on the model curriculum used for the Bexar County
25 children's crisis intervention training program and in accordance
26 with Subsection (i). The curriculum must be approved by the
27 commission. After developing the program, the committee may review

1 and revise the curriculum for the program annually or as the
2 committee determines necessary. Any revision must be approved by
3 the commission. In carrying out its duties, the committee may use
4 technology, including teleconferencing or videoconferencing, to
5 eliminate travel expenses. Not later than December 1 of each
6 even-numbered year, the commission shall review the committee's
7 continuation and functions and make any recommendations to the
8 legislature concerning statutory changes regarding the committee
9 that the commission considers appropriate.

10 (i) The curriculum for the education and training program
11 under this section must incorporate learning objectives regarding:

12 (1) child and adolescent development and psychology;
13 (2) positive behavioral interventions and supports,
14 conflict resolution techniques, and restorative justice
15 techniques;

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

18 (4) children with disabilities or special needs,
19 including mental or behavioral health needs; and

20 (5) cultural competency.

21 (j) The education and training program under this section
22 may be provided:

23 (1) as a collaborative model within a community that:

24 (A) involves local stakeholders; and

25 (B) incorporates didactic and experiential
26 training using the best practice model of the Bexar County
27 children's crisis intervention training program;

1 (2) by a school determined appropriate for operation
2 under Section 1701.251; or

3 (3) as an online training program sponsored by an
4 online training provider if the training provider also provides
5 training under Section 1701.251.

6 (k) A school district may offer additional
7 commission-approved preparatory education or training to its
8 school district peace officers and school resource officers.

9 (l) The superintendent of a school district that employs a
10 peace officer or to which a school resource officer is assigned
11 shall maintain on file the certification issued to the officer
12 under Subsection (e).

13 (m) Notwithstanding Section 1701.351(a), the commission may
14 not suspend the license of a peace officer solely because the peace
15 officer fails to meet the requirements of this section.

16 SECTION 3. Not later than March 31, 2014, the Commission on
17 Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education shall approve the
18 curriculum for the education and training program as required by
19 Section 1701.604, Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 4. Section 1701.604, Occupations Code, as added by
21 this Act, applies only to a school district peace officer or school
22 resource officer who is serving or has been assigned, appointed,
23 commissioned, or employed by a school district to serve in that
24 capacity on or after March 31, 2014.

25 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.