

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 1698

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the responsibilities of public school social workers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.905 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.905. SOCIAL WORKERS. (a) The primary responsibility of a school social worker is to provide social services to students and families in a school or district that promote and enhance the overall academic mission, alleviate barriers to learning, and strengthen partnerships between students' families, the community, and the school.

(b) In addition to a school social worker's responsibility under Subsection (a), the social worker shall:

(1) assess and counsel students and families individually, in groups, or during home visits to improve communication between teachers, parents, and students and enable improved academic performance;

(2) provide crisis prevention and intervention services and staff consultation, as needed;

(3) develop strategies and conduct workshops for parents, teachers, and students on disciplinary, safety, instructional, and behavioral issues, including dropout and suicide prevention and bullying;

(4) mobilize, coordinate, and expand community

1 resources to address academic, behavioral, emotional, and social
2 needs of students and families; and

3 (5) serve on committees, as needed.

4 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
5 school year.

6 SECTION 3. 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, 2013.