

By: Coleman

H.B. No. 3224

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to inclusion of instruction in the detection and education
3 of students with mental or emotional disorders in the requirements
4 for educator training programs.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 21.044, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (c-1) and (c-2) to read as follows:

8 (c-1) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate
9 specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a
10 bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as
11 part of the curriculum for that degree, instruction in detection
12 and education of students with mental or emotional disorders.

13 (c-2) The instruction under Subsection (c-1) must:

14 (1) be developed by a panel of experts in the diagnosis
15 and treatment of mental or emotional disorders who are appointed by
16 the board; and

17 (2) include information on:

18 (A) characteristics of the most prevalent mental
19 or emotional disorders among children;

20 (B) identification of mental or emotional
21 disorders;

22 (C) effective strategies for teaching and
23 intervening with students with mental or emotional disorders,
24 including de-escalation techniques; and

1 (D) providing, in compliance with Section
2 38.010, notice and referral to a parent or guardian of a student
3 with a mental or emotional disorder so that the parent or guardian
4 may take appropriate action such as seeking mental health services.

5 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.