

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 3491

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 RESOURCE OFFICERS [~~VISITING 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 more than 180 days unless the peace officer has completed a 12-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 develop the curriculum for the  
18 education and training program under this section based on:

19 (1) the model curriculum used for the Bexar County  
20 children's crisis intervention training program;

21 (2) Strategies for Youth police officer training; or

22 (3) CIT for Youth training curriculum available  
23 through the National Alliance on Mental Illness.

24 (g) The commission may review and revise the curriculum for  
25 the program annually or as the commission determines necessary.

26 (h) The education and training program under this section  
27 may be provided:

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

2                   (A) involves local stakeholders; and

3                   (B) incorporates didactic and experiential  
4 training using the best practice model of the Bexar County  
5 children's crisis intervention training program;

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

8           (3) as an online training program sponsored by an  
9 online training provider if the training provider also provides  
10 training under Section 1701.251.

11           (i) A school district may offer additional  
12 commission-approved preparatory education or training to its  
13 school district peace officers and school resource officers.

14           (j) The superintendent of a school district that employs a  
15 peace officer or to which a school resource officer is assigned  
16 shall maintain on file the certification issued to the officer  
17 under Subsection (e).

18           (k) Notwithstanding Section 1701.351(a), the commission may  
19 not suspend the license of a peace officer solely because the peace  
20 officer fails to meet the requirements of this section.

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

25           SECTION 4. Section 1701.604, Occupations Code, as added by  
26 this Act, applies only to a school district peace officer or school  
27 resource officer who is serving or has been assigned, appointed,

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1 commissioned, or employed by a school district to serve in that  
2 capacity on or after March 31, 2014.

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