

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

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

(c-1) Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction in detection of students with mental or emotional disorders.

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

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

(2) include information on:

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

(B) identification of mental or emotional disorders;

(C) effective strategies for teaching and intervening with students with mental or emotional disorders,

1 including de-escalation techniques and positive behavioral
2 interventions and supports; and

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

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