

By: Farney, Villalba, Fallon

H.B. No. 1170

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the applicability to open-enrollment charter schools of certain laws regarding local governments and political subdivisions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 12.1058 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.1058. APPLICABILITY OF OTHER LAWS. (a) An open-enrollment charter school is considered to be:

(1) a local government for purposes of Chapter 791, Government Code;

(2) a local government for purposes of Chapter 2259, Government Code, except that an open-enrollment charter school may not issue public securities as provided by Section 2259.031(b), Government Code; and

(3) a political subdivision for purposes of Chapter 172, Local Government Code.

(b) An open-enrollment charter school may elect to extend workers' compensation benefits to employees of the school through any method available to a political subdivision under Chapter 504, Labor Code. An open-enrollment charter school that elects to extend workers' compensation benefits as permitted under this subsection is considered to be a political subdivision for all purposes under Chapter 504, Labor Code. An open-enrollment charter

1 school that self-insures either individually or collectively under
2 Chapter 504, Labor Code, is considered to be an insurance carrier
3 for purposes of Subtitle A, Title 5, Labor Code.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.