

By: Thompson of Harris

H.B. No. 2645

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a program and training for public schools on the prevention of sexual abuse and sex trafficking and participation by the human trafficking prevention task force in that development.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.017 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.017. INSTRUCTION ON PREVENTION OF SEXUAL ABUSE AND SEX TRAFFICKING. (a) The commissioner, in cooperation with the human trafficking prevention task force created under Section 402.035, Government Code, and any other persons the commissioner considers appropriate, shall develop a sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention program that a school district may use in the district's health curriculum. The program must include:

(1) information on the different forms of sexual abuse and assault, sex trafficking, and risk factors for sex trafficking;

(2) the procedures for reporting sexual abuse and sex trafficking or suspected sexual abuse or sex trafficking;

(3) strategies for sexual abuse and assault prevention and overcoming peer pressure;

(4) information on establishing healthy boundaries for relationships, recognizing potentially abusive or harmful relationships, and avoiding high-risk activities;

1 (5) the recruiting tactics of sex traffickers and peer
2 recruiters, including recruitment through the Internet;

3 (6) the legal aspects of sexual abuse and sex
4 trafficking under state and federal law; and

5 (7) the influence of culture and mass media on
6 perceptions of sexual abuse and sex trafficking, including
7 stereotypes and myths about victims and abusers, victim blaming,
8 and the role of language.

9 (b) The program developed under Subsection (a) must
10 emphasize compassion for victims of sexual abuse or sex trafficking
11 and the creation of a positive reentry experience for survivors of
12 sexual abuse or sex trafficking into schools.

13 SECTION 2. Section [38.0041](#), Education Code, is amended by
14 amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1)
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school
17 shall adopt and implement a policy addressing sexual abuse, sex
18 trafficking, and other maltreatment of children, to be included in
19 the district improvement plan under Section [11.252](#) and any
20 informational handbook provided to students and parents.

21 (a-1) A school district may collaborate with local law
22 enforcement and outside consultants with expertise in the
23 prevention of sexual abuse and sex trafficking to create the policy
24 required under Subsection (a), and to create a referral protocol
25 for high-risk students.

26 (b) A policy required by this section must address:

27 (1) methods for increasing staff, student, and parent

1 awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and
2 other maltreatment of children, including prevention techniques
3 and knowledge of likely warning signs indicating that a child may be
4 a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment,
5 using resources developed by the agency under Section 38.004 or by
6 the commissioner under Section 28.017;

7 (2) actions that a child who is a victim of sexual
8 abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment should take to obtain
9 assistance and intervention; and

10 (3) available counseling options for students
11 affected by sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment.

12 (c) The methods under Subsection (b)(1) for increasing
13 awareness of issues regarding sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and
14 other maltreatment of children must include training, as provided
15 by this subsection, concerning prevention techniques for and
16 recognition of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and all other
17 maltreatment of children. The training:

18 (1) must be provided, as part of a new employee
19 orientation, to all new school district and open-enrollment charter
20 school employees and to existing district and open-enrollment
21 charter school employees on a schedule adopted by the agency by rule
22 until all district and open-enrollment charter school employees
23 have taken the training; and

24 (2) must include training concerning:

25 (A) factors indicating a child is at risk for
26 sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment;

27 (B) likely warning signs indicating a child may

1 be a victim of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other
2 maltreatment;

3 (C) internal procedures for seeking assistance
4 for a child who is at risk for sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or
5 other maltreatment, including referral to a school counselor, a
6 social worker, or another mental health professional;

7 (D) techniques for reducing a child's risk of
8 sexual abuse, sex trafficking, or other maltreatment; and

9 (E) community organizations that have relevant
10 existing research-based programs that are able to provide training
11 or other education for school district or open-enrollment charter
12 school staff members, students, and parents.

13 SECTION 3. Section 402.035(h), Government Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (h) This section expires September 1, 2019 [~~2017~~].

16 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
17 school year.

18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.