

By: Hughes, Bettencourt
Creighton

S.B. No. 811

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to immunity from liability of public and private schools and security personnel employed by those schools for certain actions of security personnel.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.088 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.088. IMMUNITY FROM LIABILITY. (a) In this section:

(1) "Retired peace officer" has the meaning assigned by Section 1701.3161, Occupations Code.

(2) "Security personnel" includes:

(A) a school district peace officer;

(B) a school marshal;

(C) a school resource officer; and

(D) a retired peace officer who:

(i) has been hired by a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school to provide security services; or

(ii) volunteers to provide security services to the school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school.

(b) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school is immune from liability for any damages resulting

1 from any reasonable action taken by security personnel to maintain
2 the safety of the school campus, including action relating to
3 possession or use of a firearm.

4 (c) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or
5 private school is immune from liability as provided by Subsection
6 (b) for any damages resulting from any reasonable action taken by a
7 school district, open-enrollment charter school, or private school
8 employee who has written permission from the board of trustees of
9 the school district or the governing body of the open-enrollment
10 charter school or the private school to carry a firearm on campus.

11 (d) Any security personnel employed by a school district,
12 open-enrollment charter school, or private school is immune from
13 liability for any damages resulting from any reasonable action
14 taken by the security personnel to maintain the safety of the school
15 campus, including action relating to possession or use of a
16 firearm.

17 (e) The statutory immunity provided by this section is in
18 addition to and does not preempt the common law doctrine of official
19 and governmental immunity. To the extent that another statute
20 provides greater immunity to a school district, open-enrollment
21 charter school, or private school than this section, that statute
22 prevails.

23 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
24 school year.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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- 1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
- 2 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.