

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1476

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the requirement for certain administrators of certain educational entities to report certain educator misconduct to the State Board for Educator Certification.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.006, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b) and (c) and adding Subsection (c-2) to read as follows:

(b) In addition to the reporting requirement under Section 261.101, Family Code, and except as provided by Subsection (c-2), the superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement shall notify the State Board for Educator Certification if:

(1) an educator employed by or seeking employment by the school district, district of innovation, charter school, service center, or shared services arrangement has a criminal record and the school district, district of innovation, charter school, service center, or shared services arrangement obtained information about the educator's criminal record by a means other than the criminal history clearinghouse established under Section 411.0845, Government Code;

(2) an educator's employment at the school district, district of innovation, charter school, service center, or shared

services arrangement was terminated and there is evidence that the educator:

(A) abused or otherwise committed an unlawful act with a student or minor;

(A-1) was involved in a romantic relationship with or solicited or engaged in sexual contact with a student or minor;

(B) possessed, transferred, sold, or distributed a controlled substance, as defined by Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, or by 21 U.S.C. Section 801 et seq.;

(C) illegally transferred, appropriated, or expended funds or other property of the school district, district of innovation, charter school, service center, or shared services arrangement;

(D) attempted by fraudulent or unauthorized means to obtain or alter a professional certificate or license for the purpose of promotion or additional compensation; or

(E) committed a criminal offense or any part of a criminal offense on school property or at a school-sponsored event;

(3) the educator resigned and there is evidence that the educator engaged in misconduct described by Subdivision (2); or

(4) the educator engaged in conduct that violated the assessment instrument security procedures established under Section 39.0301.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (c-2), the [The] superintendent or director must notify the State Board for Educator Certification by filing a report with the board not later than the

seventh business day after the date the superintendent or director receives a report from a principal under Subsection (b-2) or knew about an educator's termination of employment or resignation following an alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b) or an employee's criminal record under Subsection (b)(1).

(c-2) A superintendent or director of a school district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school, regional education service center, or shared services arrangement is not required to notify the State Board for Educator Certification or file a report with the board under Subsection (b) or (c) if the superintendent or director:

(1) completes an investigation into an educator's alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2)(A) or (A-1) before the educator's termination of employment or resignation; and

(2) determines the educator did not engage in the alleged incident of misconduct described by Subsection (b)(2)(A) or (A-1).

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

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.