

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 164

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a policy requiring the use of face coverings in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.0022 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.0022. FACE COVERING POLICY. Notwithstanding any other law, the board of trustees of a school district or the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school may require an individual to wear a face mask, face shield, or other face covering to reduce the spread of infectious, contagious, and communicable diseases when the individual is in the following settings operated by the district or school:

(1) a school building;

(2) a school bus; or

(3) any other congregate educational setting in which children younger than 12 years of age may be present during times dedicated for educational purposes.

SECTION 2. 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 on the 91st day after the last day of the legislative session.