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By:  Coleman H.B. No. 2846

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a notification requirement if a public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, does not have a nurse assigned to the school during all instructional hours.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 38, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 38.020 to read as follows:

Sec. 38.020.  PARENTAL NOTIFICATION CONCERNING NURSES. (a) In this section, "nurse" means a person licensed under Chapter 301, Occupations Code.

(b)  Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (g), a public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, that does not have a full-time nurse or the equivalent of a full-time nurse assigned to be present at the school for more than 30 consecutive instructional days during the same school year shall provide written notice of the absence to the parent of or other person standing in parental relation to each student enrolled in the school.

(c)  A school has the equivalent of a full-time nurse under Subsection (b) if the school has two or more nurses assigned to the school and all regular student instructional hours at the school during the regular school day are covered by the assignment of at least one nurse.

(d)  The principal of the school shall provide the notice required by Subsection (b) not later than the 30th instructional day after the first day the school does not have a full-time nurse or the equivalent of a full-time nurse assigned to be present at the school.

(e)  The school shall:

(1)  make a good faith effort to ensure that the notice required by this section is provided in a bilingual form to any parent or other person standing in parental relation whose primary language is not English; and

(2)  retain a copy of any notice provided under this section.

(f)  A school may satisfy the notice requirement under Subsection (d) by posting the notice on the school's Internet website. Notice posted under this subsection must be accessible from the home page of the Internet website by use of not more than three links.

(g)  This section does not apply to a school district or open-enrollment charter school with a student enrollment of less than 10,000 students.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022 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, 2021.