By:  Campbell S.B. No. 2158

(In the Senate - Filed March 24, 2021; April 6, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 23, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 23, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Taylor            X

Lucio                X

Bettencourt          X

Hall                 X

Hughes                         X

Menéndez             X

Paxton               X

Perry                X

Powell               X

Schwertner           X

West                 X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2158 By:  Paxton

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to provide identification kits to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools for distribution to the parent or legal custodian of certain students.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.0531 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.0531.  CHILD IDENTIFICATION PROGRAM. (a) The agency shall provide to all school districts and open-enrollment charter schools inkless, in-home fingerprint and DNA identification kits to be distributed through the district or school on request to the parent or legal custodian of any kindergarten, elementary, or middle school student.

(b)  A parent or legal custodian who receives a fingerprint and DNA identification kit may submit the kit to federal, state, tribal, or local law enforcement to help locate and return a missing or trafficked child.

SECTION 2.  Section 33.057, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.057.  DESTRUCTION OF FINGERPRINTS AND PHOTOGRAPHS. The agency shall adopt rules relating to the destruction of fingerprints and photographs made or kept under Section 33.053 or 33.054 [~~this subchapter~~].

SECTION 3.  The Texas Education Agency is required to implement Section 33.0531, Education Code, as added by this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the agency may, but is not required to, implement that section using other appropriations available for that purpose.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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