

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 287

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the employment of certified school counselors to comply with the ratio requirement of counselors to public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 33.002(b) and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) A school district with 250 [~~500~~] or more students enrolled in elementary school grades shall employ a school counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification for each elementary school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 250 [~~500~~] elementary school students in the district.

(c) A school district with fewer than 250 [~~500~~] students enrolled in elementary school grades shall provide guidance and counseling services to elementary school students by:

(1) employing a part-time school counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification;

(2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a school counselor under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification; or

(3) entering into a shared services arrangement agreement with one or more school districts to share a school counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification.

1           SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
2 school year.

3           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.