A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the use of the school safety allotment for a school
district's pandemic preparation and response.

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

SECTION 1. Section 42.168, Education Code, as added by
Chapter 464 (S.B. 11), Acts of the 86th Legislature, Regular
Session, 2019, is transferred to Subchapter C, Chapter 48,
Education Code, redesignated as Section 48.115, Education Code, and
amended to conform to changes made by Chapter 943 (H.B. 3), Acts of
the 86th Legislature, Regular Session, 2019, and is further amended
to read as follows:

Sec. 48.115 [42.168]. SCHOOL SAFETY ALLOTMENT. (a) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall provide
to a school district an annual allotment in the amount provided by
appropriation for each student in average daily attendance.

(b) Funds allocated under this section must be used to
improve school safety and security, including costs associated
with:

(1) securing school facilities, including:

(A) improvements to school infrastructure;

(B) the use or installation of physical barriers;

and

(C) the purchase and maintenance of:

(i) security cameras or other security
equipment; and

(ii) technology, including communications systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in an emergency;

(2) providing security for the district, including:

(A) employing school district peace officers, private security officers, and school marshals; and

(B) collaborating with local law enforcement agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the district;

(3) school safety and security training and planning, including:

(A) active shooter and emergency response training;

(B) prevention and treatment programs relating to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

(C) the prevention, identification, and management of emergencies and threats, including:

(i) providing mental health personnel and support;

(ii) providing behavioral health services; and

(iii) establishing threat reporting systems; [and]

(4) providing programs related to suicide prevention,
intervention, and postvention; and

(5) school health and safety efforts relating to pandemic preparation and response, including:

(A) employing school nurses; and

(B) purchasing:

(i) diagnostic testing equipment; and

(ii) personal protective equipment.

(c) A school district may use funds allocated under this section for equipment or software that is used for a school safety and security purpose and an instructional purpose, provided that the instructional use does not compromise the safety and security purpose of the equipment or software.

(d) A school district that is required to take action under Chapter 49 to reduce its local revenue level to the level established under Section 48.257 is entitled to a credit, in the amount of the allotments to which the district is to receive as provided by appropriation, against the total amount required under Section 49.153 for the district to purchase attendance credit.

(e) The commissioner may adopt rules to implement this section.

SECTION 2. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over another Act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.