88R6738 JTZ-F

By:  Kolkhorst S.B. No. 1547

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the permissible uses of the school safety allotment under the public school finance system.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 48.115(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(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;

(C)  providing stipends to employees who are authorized under the written regulations or written authorization of the district to carry a firearm on the physical premises of the district in accordance with Section 46.03(a)(1)(A), Penal Code; and

(D)  reimbursing expenses incurred by retired peace officers or honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces of the United States in providing security services as a volunteer at 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, using evidence-based, effective prevention practices and including:

(i)  providing licensed counselors, social workers, and individuals trained in restorative discipline and restorative justice practices;

(ii)  providing mental health personnel and support;

(iii)  providing behavioral health services;

(iv)  establishing threat reporting systems; and

(v)  developing and implementing programs focused on restorative justice practices, culturally relevant instruction, and providing mental health support; and

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

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.