88R6082 JES-D

By:  Bettencourt S.B. No. 1633

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a school marshal and guardian training grant program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 37.0811, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

(i)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school may request a grant under the school marshal and guardian training grant program established under Section 37.0814.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.0814 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.0814.  SCHOOL MARSHAL AND GUARDIAN TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "school guardian" means a person who, pursuant to the written regulations or written authorization of a school district or open-enrollment charter school under Section 46.03(a)(1)(A), Penal Code, is authorized to carry or possess a specified weapon for the purpose of providing safety and security on the physical premises of a school, any grounds or building on which an activity sponsored by a school is being conducted, or a passenger transportation vehicle of a school.

(b)  From funds appropriated or otherwise available for that purpose, the commissioner shall establish a grant program under which a grant of $3,000 is awarded to each school campus of a school district or open-enrollment charter school that applies. The grant may only be used to pay the costs of providing an appointed school marshal or school guardian with training.

(c)  The identity of a school district or open-enrollment charter school that receives a grant under this section and the identity of a school marshal or school guardian who receives training using that grant are confidential, except as provided by Section 1701.260(j), Occupations Code, and are not subject to a request under Chapter 552, Government Code.

(d)  The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to establish the grant program under this section.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.