By:  Kolkhorst S.B. No. 2273

(In the Senate - Filed March 10, 2023; March 22, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 8, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 12, Nays 0; May 8, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

                    Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton         X

Campbell             X

Bettencourt          X

Birdwell                       X

Flores               X

King                 X

LaMantia             X

Menéndez             X

Middleton            X

Parker               X

Paxton               X

Springer             X

West                 X

COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2273 By:  Flores

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring semiannual school safety meetings in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter C, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 37.0833 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.0833.  SCHOOL SAFETY MEETINGS. (a) The sheriff of a county with a total population of less than 300,000 in which a public school is located, shall call and conduct semiannual meetings to discuss:

(1)  school safety;

(2)  coordinated law enforcement response to school violence incidents;

(3)  law enforcement agency capabilities;

(4)  available resources;

(5)  emergency radio interoperability;

(6)  chain of command planning; and

(7)  other related subjects proposed by a person in attendance at the meeting.

(b)  The following persons shall attend a meeting called under Subsection (a):

(1)  the sheriff or the sheriff's designee;

(2)  the police chief of a municipal police department in the county or the police chief's designee;

(3)  each elected constable in the county or the constable's designees;

(4)  each police chief of a school district's police department or school district security coordinator from each school district located in the county;

(5)  a representative of the Department of Public Safety assigned to the county;

(6)  a person appointed to a command staff position at an emergency medical service in the county;

(7)  a person appointed to a command staff position at a municipal emergency medical service in the county;

(8)  a person appointed to a command staff position at a fire department in the county; and

(9)  any other person the sheriff considers appropriate.

(c)  As soon as practicable after a meeting under Subsection (a), the sheriff shall submit a notice to the Texas School Safety Center identifying the attendees of the meeting and a statement of compliance with this provision. The Texas School Safety Center shall publish the notice on the center's Internet website.

(d)  A meeting under this section shall be conducted as a closed, nonpublic meeting that is not subject to the open meetings law, Chapter 551, Government Code.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the sheriff of a county described by Section 37.0833(a), Education Code, as added by this Act, shall call a meeting as provided by that section.

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

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