

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2976

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an elective course on firearms safety for public high school students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0121 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0121. FIREARMS SAFETY ELECTIVE COURSE. (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program may offer to students in high school an elective course on firearms safety based on the curriculum guidelines developed under Subsection (b). The course must meet the requirements for a one-half elective credit under Section 28.025.

(b) The State Board of Education shall develop curriculum guidelines for the elective course on firearms safety. The curriculum guidelines must:

- (1) focus on accident prevention;
- (2) promote the safety and protection of students;
- (3) emphasize how students should respond when encountering a firearm; and
- (4) include the information contained in the firearms safety portion of a hunter education course under Section 62.014, Parks and Wildlife Code.

(c) The State Board of Education shall develop a virtual course on firearms safety that meets the requirements of an

1 elective course under Subsection (a) for a school district or
2 open-enrollment charter school to offer to high school students.

3 (d) The State Board of Education shall make the virtual
4 course on firearms safety developed under Subsection (c) available
5 to:

6 (1) the agency;

7 (2) the Parks and Wildlife Department; and

8 (3) the Department of Public Safety.

9 (e) Each entity described by Subsection (d) shall make the
10 virtual course on firearms safety available to the public free of
11 charge through the entity's Internet website.

12 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
13 of this Act, the State Board of Education shall:

14 (1) develop the curriculum guidelines required under
15 Section 28.0121(b), Education Code, as added by this Act; and

16 (2) develop the virtual course on firearms safety
17 required under Section 28.0121(c), Education Code, as added by this
18 Act.

19 SECTION 3. Section 28.0121, Education Code, as added by
20 this Act, applies beginning with the 2024-2025 school year.

21 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.