

By: Jones of Harris

H.B. No. 4575

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to continuing education requirements for public school counselors regarding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning youth issues.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.0542 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.0542. CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR SCHOOL COUNSELORS REGARDING LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER, QUEER, OR QUESTIONING YOUTH ISSUES. (a) The board shall propose rules requiring a counselor to complete a three-hour continuing education course to help school counselors address issues concerning students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning.

(b) The rules proposed by the board under this section may allow a school counselor to receive credit toward the total number of hours required for the counselor's overall continuing education requirements for completion of a course under this section.

(c) The board shall identify or create a continuing education course or program that meets the requirements of Subsection (a) and includes training regarding:

(1) pronoun terminology and usage;
(2) the handling of hate crimes and bullying against students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning;

1 (3) mental health and suicide education related to the
2 specific struggles encountered by students who are lesbian, gay,
3 bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning;

4 (4) advice to provide a student for communicating the
5 student's sexual orientation or gender identity to the student's
6 parent;

7 (5) the creation of a welcoming environment that is
8 culturally sensitive for students who are lesbian, gay, bisexual,
9 transgender, queer, or questioning; and

10 (6) past and present systems of oppression for persons
11 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning.

12 (d) The board may consult with the following persons or
13 entities as necessary to implement this section:

14 (1) a psychologist specializing in child psychology;

15 (2) a psychologist specializing in care for persons
16 who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or questioning;
17 or

18 (3) an appropriate nonprofit organization.

19 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act, the State Board for Educator Certification shall
21 propose rules implementing Section 21.0542, Education Code, as
22 added by this Act.

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