

By: Kolkhorst

S.B. No. 1547

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the permissible uses of the school safety allotment
3 under the public school finance system.

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

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

7 (b) Funds allocated under this section must be used to
8 improve school safety and security, including costs associated
9 with:

- 10 (1) securing school facilities, including:
- 11 (A) improvements to school infrastructure;
 - 12 (B) the use or installation of physical barriers;
 - 13 and
 - 14 (C) the purchase and maintenance of:
 - 15 (i) security cameras or other security
 - 16 equipment; and
 - 17 (ii) technology, including communications
 - 18 systems or devices, that facilitates communication and information
 - 19 sharing between students, school personnel, and first responders in
 - 20 an emergency;

- 21 (2) providing security for the district, including:
- 22 (A) employing school district peace officers,
 - 23 private security officers, and school marshals; ~~and~~
 - 24 (B) collaborating with local law enforcement

1 agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for
2 the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the
3 district;

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

8 (D) reimbursing expenses incurred by retired
9 peace officers or honorably discharged veterans of the armed forces
10 of the United States in providing security services as a volunteer
11 at the district;

12 (3) school safety and security training and planning,
13 including:

14 (A) active shooter and emergency response
15 training;

16 (B) prevention and treatment programs relating
17 to addressing adverse childhood experiences; and

18 (C) the prevention, identification, and
19 management of emergencies and threats, using evidence-based,
20 effective prevention practices and including:

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

24 (ii) providing mental health personnel and
25 support;

26 (iii) providing behavioral health
27 services;

1 (iv) establishing threat reporting
2 systems; and

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

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

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