

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 2520

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures for ensuring safety and security in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 37.1083 to read as follows:

Sec. 37.1083. AGENCY MONITORING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT SAFETY AND SECURITY REQUIREMENTS. (a) The agency shall monitor the implementation and operation of requirements related to school district safety and security, including school district:

(1) multihazard emergency operations plans; and

(2) safety and security audits.

(b) The agency shall establish an office of school safety and security within the agency to coordinate the agency's monitoring of school district safety and security requirements under this section. The director of the office is appointed by the governor and must report directly to the commissioner.

(c) The agency shall provide technical assistance to school districts to support the implementation and operation of safety and security requirements, including the preparation of multihazard emergency operations plans and performance of safety and security audits.

(d) The agency may engage or require a school district to engage a third party as necessary to enable the agency to monitor

1 the implementation and operation of school district safety and
2 security requirements under this section.

3 (e) The commissioner may take appropriate action under
4 Chapter 39A, including the assignment of a conservator or the
5 appointment of a board of managers, if a school district fails to:

6 (1) submit to the required monitoring under this
7 section;

8 (2) comply with applicable safety and security
9 requirements; or

10 (3) address in a reasonable time period, as determined
11 by commissioner rule, issues raised by the monitoring of the
12 district under this section.

13 (f) The agency, or if approved by the agency, the Texas
14 School Safety Center, may identify, develop, and make available to
15 school districts information to assist districts in the
16 implementation and operation of safety and security requirements,
17 including relevant:

18 (1) guidelines;

19 (2) techniques;

20 (3) blueprints;

21 (4) best practices; and

22 (5) procedures.

23 (g) The agency, the Texas School Safety Center, and school
24 districts may share information described by Subsection (f) with
25 one another.

26 (h) The agency may require a school district to submit
27 information necessary for the agency to monitor the implementation

1 and operation of school district safety and security requirements
2 under this section, including:

3 (1) notice of an event requiring a district's emergency
4 response; and

5 (2) information regarding the district's response and
6 use of emergency operations procedures during an event described by
7 Subdivision (1).

8 (i) The agency may review school district records as
9 necessary to ensure compliance with this subchapter and Subchapter
10 G.

11 (j) Any document or information collected, identified,
12 developed, or produced relating to the monitoring of school
13 district safety and security requirements under this section is
14 confidential under Sections 418.177 and 418.181, Government Code,
15 and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552, Government Code.

16 (k) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
17 administer this section.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
19 amended by adding Sections 37.117 to read as follows:

20 Sec.37.117. SAFE SCHOOLS UNIVERSAL PLATFORM. (a) In this
21 section:

22 (1) "Office" means the office of school safety and
23 Security established under Section 37.1083.

24 (2) "Universal platform" means the safe schools
25 Universal platform established under this section.

26 (b) The office shall contract with an outside vendor to
27 create and maintain a safe schools universal platform to serve as a

1 centralized integrated repository and analytics resource for data
2 relating to school safety and community welfare.

3 (c) The universal platform must be:

4 (1) designed to integrate and present data, as
5 necessary, from:

6 (A) social media and other Internet sources;

7 (B) relevant state agencies;

8 (C) any tool developed or available for reporting
9 suspicious activity; and

10 (D) reports and notifications provided by a
11 school district or open-enrollment charter school, including:

12 (i) incident reports generated after an
13 incident affecting school safety; and

14 (ii) notifications provided by the district
15 or school indicating an upcoming event or incident may cause a
16 disruption to the normal operations of the district or school or the
17 functions of the surrounding community;

18 (2) to the extent possible, capable of integrating
19 with existing platforms or technologies used by school districts
20 and open-enrollment charter schools for school safety; and

21 (3) able to relay information clearly and in real time
22 to each person or entity necessary to provide a unified response to
23 a safety incident, or to take appropriate action in response to an
24 anticipated disruption to the normal functions of the surrounding
25 community, including:

26 (A) the governor;

27 (B) affected school districts and

1 open-enrollment charter schools;

2 (C) relevant state agencies;

3 (D) relevant law enforcement agencies; and

4 (E) other first responders.

5 (d) A document, information, or data collected for,
6 identified on, or published to the universal platform is
7 confidential and not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552,
8 Government Code.

9 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
10 implement this section.

11 SECTION 3. (a) This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.