

By: Lopez of Cameron

H.B. No. 1122

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the employment of certified school counselors by school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 33.002, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 33.002. ~~[CERTIFIED]~~ SCHOOL COUNSELOR TO STUDENT RATIO;
DISTRIBUTION OF FUNDS FOR COUNSELING PROGRAMS. (a) In this
section, "school counselor" means a school counselor certified
under Subchapter B, Chapter 21.

(a-1) From funds appropriated for the purpose or other funds that may be used for the purpose, the commissioner shall distribute funds for programs under this subchapter. In distributing those funds, the commissioner shall give preference to ~~[a school district that received funds under this subsection for the preceding school year and then to]~~ the districts that have the highest concentration of students at risk of dropping out of school, as described by Section 29.081. To receive funds for the program, a school district must apply to the commissioner. For each school year that a school district receives funds under this subsection, the district shall allocate an amount of local funds for school guidance and counseling programs that is equal to or greater than the amount of local funds that the school district allocated for that purpose during the preceding school year. Funds distributed under this

subsection are in addition to any other funds available for programs under this subchapter, including funds provided under Section 48.2641 ~~[This section applies only to a school district that receives funds as provided by this subsection].~~

(b) Beginning with the 2033-2034 school year, a [A] school district with 300 [500] or more students in enrollment ~~[enrolled in elementary school grades]~~ shall employ a school counselor ~~[certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification]~~ for each ~~[elementary]~~ school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 300 ~~[500 elementary school]~~ students in the district.

(b-1) Beginning with the 2031-2032 school year, a school district with 350 or more students in enrollment shall employ a school counselor for each school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 350 students in the district. This subsection expires September 1, 2033.

(b-2) Beginning with the 2029-2030 school year, a school district with 400 or more students in enrollment shall employ a school counselor for each school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 400 students in the district. This subsection expires September 1, 2031.

(b-3) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, a school district with 450 or more students in enrollment shall employ a school counselor for each school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 450 students in the district. This subsection expires September 1, 2029.

(b-4) A school district with 500 or more students in

enrollment shall employ a school counselor for each school in the district. A school district shall employ at least one school counselor for every 500 students in the district. This subsection expires September 1, 2027.

(c) Beginning with the 2033-2034 school year, a [A] school district with fewer than 300 [500] students in enrollment [enrolled in elementary school grades] shall provide guidance and counseling services to [elementary school] students by:

(1) employing a part-time school counselor [certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification];

(2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21 [the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification]; or

(3) entering into a shared services arrangement agreement with one or more school districts to share a school counselor [certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification].

(c-1) Beginning with the 2031-2032 school year, a school district with fewer than 350 students in enrollment shall provide guidance and counseling services to students by:

(1) employing a part-time school counselor;

(2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; or

(3) entering into a shared services arrangement agreement with one or more school districts to share a school counselor.

(c-2) Subsection (c-1) and this subsection expire September

1 1, 2033.

2 (c-3) Beginning with the 2029-2030 school year, a school
3 district with fewer than 400 students in enrollment shall provide
4 guidance and counseling services to students by:

5 (1) employing a part-time school counselor;

6 (2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a
7 school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; or

8 (3) entering into a shared services arrangement
9 agreement with one or more school districts to share a school
10 counselor.

11 (c-4) Subsection (c-3) and this subsection expire September
12 1, 2031.

13 (c-5) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, a school
14 district with fewer than 450 students in enrollment shall provide
15 guidance and counseling services to students by:

16 (1) employing a part-time school counselor;

17 (2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a
18 school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; or

19 (3) entering into a shared services arrangement
20 agreement with one or more school districts to share a school
21 counselor.

22 (c-6) Subsection (c-5) and this subsection expire September
23 1, 2029.

24 (c-7) A school district with fewer than 500 students in
25 enrollment shall provide guidance and counseling services to
26 students by:

27 (1) employing a part-time school counselor;

1 (2) employing a part-time teacher certified as a
2 school counselor under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; or

3 (3) entering into a shared services arrangement
4 agreement with one or more school districts to share a school
5 counselor.

6 (c-8) Subsection (c-7) and this subsection expire September
7 1, 2027.

8 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 48, Education Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 48.2641 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 48.2641. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR CERTIFIED SCHOOL
11 COUNSELORS. For each school year, from money that may be used for
12 the purpose, a school district is entitled to state aid in an
13 amount, as determined by the commissioner, sufficient to assist the
14 district in employing the number of certified school counselors
15 required by Section 33.002.

16 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
17 school year.

18 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.