

By: Hayes

H.B. No. 4550

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to permissible uses of the school safety allotment under the Foundation School Program.

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

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

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

(1) securing school facilities in accordance with the requirements of Section 37.351, including:

(A) improvements to school infrastructure;

(B) the use or installation of perimeter security fencing conducive to a public school learning environment or physical barriers, which may not include razor wire;

(C) exterior door and window safety and security upgrades, including exterior door numbering and locking systems and security film that provides resistance to a forced entry; and

(D) the purchase and maintenance of:

(i) security cameras and, if the district has already installed security cameras, other security equipment, including video surveillance as provided by Section 29.022; ~~and~~

(ii) technology, including communications systems or devices, such as silent panic alert devices, two-way

1 radios, or wireless Internet booster equipment, that facilitates
2 communication and information sharing between students, school
3 personnel, and first responders in an emergency; and

4 (iii) mobile metal detectors;

5 (2) providing security for the district, including:

6 (A) employing school district peace officers,
7 private security officers, and school marshals; and

8 (B) collaborating with local law enforcement
9 agencies, such as entering into a memorandum of understanding for
10 the assignment of school resource officers to schools in the
11 district;

12 (3) school safety and security measures, including:

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

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

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

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

23 (ii) providing mental health personnel and
24 support, including chaplains;

25 (iii) providing behavioral health
26 services, including services provided by chaplains;

27 (iv) establishing threat reporting

1 systems; and

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

6 (4) providing programs related to suicide prevention,
7 intervention, and postvention, including programs provided by
8 chaplains; and

9 (5) employing a school safety director and other
10 personnel to manage and monitor school safety initiatives and the
11 implementation of school safety requirements for the district.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.