

By: Ward Johnson

H.B. No. 5257

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to mental health first aid training for certain school district volunteers.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 22.904(a), (b), and (c), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as otherwise provided by this section, a school district shall require each district employee or volunteer who regularly interacts with students enrolled at the district to complete an evidence-based mental health training program designed to provide instruction to participants regarding the recognition and support of children and youth who experience a mental health or substance use issue that may pose a threat to school safety.

(b) A school district may not require a district employee or volunteer who has previously completed mental health training offered by a local mental health authority under Section 1001.203, Health and Safety Code, to complete the training required by this section.

(c) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the agency shall provide an allotment to each school district to assist the district in complying with this section. The amount of an allotment provided to a school district under this subsection may not exceed the costs incurred by the district for employees' or volunteers' travel, training fees, and compensation for the time spent

1 completing the training required by this section. The agency may
2 proportionally reduce each district's allotment if the amount
3 appropriated is insufficient to pay for all costs incurred by
4 districts under this subsection.

5 SECTION 2. Section 1001.203(a), Health and Safety Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) To the extent money is appropriated for the purpose, the
8 commission shall make grants to local mental health authorities or
9 local behavioral health authorities to provide at no cost an
10 approved mental health first aid training program administered by
11 mental health first aid trainers to the following individuals at
12 the discretion of the authorities:

13 (1) school district employees and school resource
14 officers;

15 (2) employees of:

16 (A) an institution of higher education;

17 (B) an open-enrollment charter school; or

18 (C) a private school;

19 (3) employees and contractors of a child-care
20 facility;

21 (4) youth;

22 (5) individuals with direct and recurring contact with
23 students, including school district volunteers;

24 (6) first responders;

25 (7) military service members, veterans, or immediate
26 family members of military service members or veterans;

27 (8) judges and attorneys, as applicable based on the

1 practice of law of the judge or attorney; or

2 (9) contractors of an institution of higher education,
3 an open-enrollment charter school, a private school, or a school
4 district.

5 SECTION 3. Not later than September 1, 2026, each school
6 district shall ensure that each district volunteer described by
7 Section [22.904](#), Education Code, as amended by this Act, has
8 completed an evidence-based mental health first aid training
9 program as required by that section.

10 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.