

By: Nichols

S.B. No. 1262

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures for ensuring public school safety, including
3 the commissioning of peace officers by the Texas Education Agency,
4 public school safety and security requirements, and the provision
5 of safety-related resources.

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

7 SECTION 1. Article [2A.001](#), Code of Criminal Procedure, is
8 amended to conform to Section 2, Chapter 624 (H.B. 4372), Section 1,
9 Chapter 870 (H.B. 3981), Section 1, Chapter 950 (S.B. 1727), and
10 Section 1, Chapter 984 (S.B. 2612), Acts of the 88th Legislature,
11 Regular Session, 2023, and is further amended to read as follows:

12 Art. 2A.001. PEACE OFFICERS GENERALLY. The following are
13 peace officers:

14 (1) a sheriff, a sheriff's deputy, or a reserve deputy
15 sheriff who holds a permanent peace officer license issued under
16 Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

17 (2) a constable, a deputy constable, or a reserve
18 deputy constable who holds a permanent peace officer license issued
19 under Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

20 (3) a marshal or police officer of a municipality or a
21 reserve municipal police officer who holds a permanent peace
22 officer license issued under Chapter [1701](#), Occupations Code;

23 (4) a ranger, officer, or member of the reserve
24 officer corps commissioned by the Public Safety Commission and the

1 director of the Department of Public Safety;

2 (5) an investigator of a district attorney's, criminal
3 district attorney's, or county attorney's office;

4 (6) a law enforcement agent of the Texas Alcoholic
5 Beverage Commission;

6 (7) a member of an arson investigating unit
7 commissioned by a municipality, a county, or the state;

8 (8) an officer commissioned under Section [37.081](#) or
9 [37.0818](#), Education Code, or Subchapter [E](#), Chapter [51](#), Education
10 Code;

11 (9) an officer commissioned by the Texas Facilities
12 Commission;

13 (10) a law enforcement officer commissioned by the
14 Parks and Wildlife Commission;

15 (11) an officer commissioned under Chapter [23](#),
16 Transportation Code;

17 (12) a municipal park and recreational patrol officer
18 or security officer;

19 (13) a security officer or investigator commissioned
20 as a peace officer by the comptroller;

21 (14) an officer commissioned by a water control and
22 improvement district under Section [49.216](#), Water Code;

23 (15) an officer commissioned by a board of trustees
24 under Chapter [54](#), Transportation Code;

25 (16) an investigator commissioned by the Texas Medical
26 Board;

27 (17) an officer commissioned by:

1 (A) the board of managers of the Dallas County
2 Hospital District, the Tarrant County Hospital District, the Bexar
3 County Hospital District, or the El Paso County Hospital District
4 under Section 281.057, Health and Safety Code;

5 (B) the board of directors of the Ector County
6 Hospital District under Section 1024.117, Special District Local
7 Laws Code;

8 (C) the board of directors of the Midland County
9 Hospital District of Midland County, Texas, under Section 1061.121,
10 Special District Local Laws Code; or

11 (D) the board of hospital managers of the Lubbock
12 County Hospital District of Lubbock County, Texas, under Section
13 1053.113, Special District Local Laws Code;

14 (18) a county park ranger commissioned under
15 Subchapter E, Chapter 351, Local Government Code;

16 (19) an investigator employed by the Texas Racing
17 Commission;

18 (20) an officer commissioned under Chapter 554,
19 Occupations Code;

20 (21) an officer commissioned by the governing body of
21 a metropolitan rapid transit authority under Section 451.108,
22 Transportation Code, or a regional transportation authority under
23 Section 452.110, Transportation Code;

24 (22) an investigator commissioned by the attorney
25 general under Section 402.009, Government Code;

26 (23) a security officer or investigator commissioned
27 as a peace officer under Chapter 466, Government Code;

1 (24) an officer appointed by an appellate court under
2 Subchapter F, Chapter 53, Government Code;

3 (25) an officer commissioned by the state fire marshal
4 under Chapter 417, Government Code;

5 (26) an investigator commissioned by the commissioner
6 of insurance under Section 701.104, Insurance Code;

7 (27) an officer appointed by the inspector general of
8 ~~[apprehension specialist or inspector general commissioned by]~~ the
9 Texas Juvenile Justice Department ~~[as an officer]~~ under Section
10 242.102 ~~[or 243.052]~~, Human Resources Code;

11 (28) an officer appointed by the inspector general of
12 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice under Section 493.019,
13 Government Code;

14 (29) an investigator commissioned by the Texas
15 Commission on Law Enforcement under Section 1701.160, Occupations
16 Code;

17 (30) a fire marshal or any related officer, inspector,
18 or investigator commissioned by a county under Subchapter B,
19 Chapter 352, Local Government Code;

20 (31) a fire marshal or any officer, inspector, or
21 investigator commissioned by an emergency services district under
22 Chapter 775, Health and Safety Code;

23 (32) a fire marshal or any officer, inspector, or
24 investigator of a municipality who holds a permanent peace officer
25 license issued under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code;

26 (33) an officer commissioned by the State Board of
27 Dental Examiners under Section 254.013, Occupations Code, subject

1 to the limitations imposed by that section; ~~and~~

2 (34) [~~33~~] an Alamo complex ranger commissioned by
3 the General Land Office under Section 31.0515, Natural Resources
4 Code, subject to the limitations imposed by that section; and

5 (35) an officer commissioned by the Texas Education
6 Agency as an officer under Section 37.1031, Education Code
7 [investigator commissioned by the Texas Juvenile Justice
8 Department as an officer under Section 221.011, Human Resources
9 Code].

10 SECTION 2. Section 7.021, Education Code, is amended by
11 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

12 (d) The agency may commission peace officers as provided by
13 Section 37.1031 to enforce Subchapter D, Chapter 37.

14 SECTION 3. Section 37.0814, Education Code, is amended by
15 adding Subsection (d-1) to read as follows:

16 (d-1) A good cause exception claimed by the board of
17 trustees of a school district under Subsection (c) expires on the
18 fifth anniversary of the date the exception is claimed. On the
19 expiration of the exception, the board must reevaluate whether the
20 board is able to comply with this section and, if not, renew:

21 (1) the claim for an exception under Subsection (c);
22 and

23 (2) the alternative standard developed under
24 Subsection (d).

25 SECTION 4. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
26 amended by adding Section 37.1031 to read as follows:

27 Sec. 37.1031. AGENCY PEACE OFFICERS. (a) The agency may

1 commission as a peace officer to enforce this subchapter an
2 employee who has been certified as qualified to be a peace officer
3 by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

4 (b) An employee commissioned as a peace officer under this
5 section has the powers, privileges, and immunities of a peace
6 officer while carrying out duties as a peace officer under this
7 subchapter.

8 SECTION 5. Section 37.108(f), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (f) A school district shall include in its multihazard
11 emergency operations plan:

12 (1) a chain of command that designates the individual
13 responsible for making final decisions during a disaster or
14 emergency situation and identifies other individuals responsible
15 for making those decisions if the designated person is unavailable;

16 (2) provisions that address physical and
17 psychological safety for responding to a natural disaster, active
18 shooter, and any other dangerous scenario identified for purposes
19 of this section by the agency or the Texas School Safety Center;

20 (3) provisions for ensuring the safety of students in
21 portable buildings;

22 (4) provisions for ensuring that students and district
23 personnel with disabilities are provided equal access to safety
24 during a disaster or emergency situation;

25 (5) provisions for providing immediate notification
26 to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental
27 relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the

1 health or safety of students, including identification of the
2 individual with responsibility for overseeing the notification;

3 (6) provisions for supporting the psychological
4 safety of students, district personnel, and the community during
5 the response and recovery phase following a disaster or emergency
6 situation that:

7 (A) are aligned with best practice-based
8 programs and research-based practices recommended under Section
9 [38.351](#);

10 (B) include strategies for ensuring any required
11 professional development training for suicide prevention and
12 grief-informed and trauma-informed care is provided to appropriate
13 school personnel;

14 (C) include training on integrating
15 psychological safety and suicide prevention strategies into the
16 district's plan, such as psychological first aid for schools
17 training, from an approved list of recommended training established
18 by the commissioner and Texas School Safety Center for:

19 (i) members of the district's school safety
20 and security committee under Section [37.109](#);

21 (ii) district school counselors and mental
22 health professionals; and

23 (iii) educators and other district
24 personnel as determined by the district;

25 (D) include strategies and procedures for
26 integrating and supporting physical and psychological safety that
27 align with the provisions described by Subdivision (2); and

- 1 (E) implement trauma-informed policies;
- 2 (7) a policy for providing a substitute teacher access
- 3 to school campus buildings and materials necessary for the
- 4 substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a district employee
- 5 during an emergency or a mandatory emergency drill;
- 6 (8) provisions, as determined by the agency, for
- 7 ensuring the safety of students, staff, and spectators during
- 8 extracurricular activities sponsored or sanctioned by the
- 9 district;
- 10 (9) the name of each individual on the district's
- 11 school safety and security committee established under Section
- 12 37.109 and the date of each committee meeting during the preceding
- 13 year; and
- 14 (10) [~~(9)~~] certification that the district is in
- 15 compliance with Section 37.117.

16 SECTION 6. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is

17 amended by adding Section 37.1088 to read as follows:

18 Sec. 37.1088. AGENCY REPORT ON SCHOOL SAFETY. (a) Not

19 later than December 31 of each year, the agency shall prepare and

20 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the

21 house of representatives, and each standing committee of each house

22 of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over primary and

23 secondary education, finance, and appropriations a report that

24 includes the deidentified results of the vulnerability assessments

25 and intruder detection audits conducted under Sections 37.1083 and

26 37.1084 during the preceding year.

27 (b) The report under Subsection (a) must include

1 recommendations and possible corrective actions for specific
2 deficiencies in campus security identified at multiple school
3 districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

4 SECTION 7. Section 37.222(b), Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (b) At least three times each school year, each ~~[Each]~~
7 school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide
8 the information and other resources described under Subsection (a)
9 to the parent or guardian of each student enrolled in the district
10 or school.

11 SECTION 8. Section 37.353, Education Code, is amended by
12 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

13 (c) A good cause exception claimed by a school district
14 under Subsection (a) expires on the fifth anniversary of the date on
15 which the exception is claimed. On the expiration of the exception,
16 the district must reevaluate whether the district is able to comply
17 with each school facility standard related to safety and security,
18 and if not, renew:

19 (1) the claim for an exception under Subsection (a);
20 and

21 (2) the alternative performance standard developed
22 under Subsection (b).

23 SECTION 9. Sections 85.024(a) and (b), Local Government
24 Code, are amended to read as follows:

25 (a) The sheriff of a county with a total population of less
26 than 350,000 in which a public school is located shall call and
27 conduct a meeting at least twice each year ~~[semiannual meetings]~~ to

1 discuss:

2 (1) school safety;

3 (2) coordinated law enforcement response to school
4 violence incidents;

5 (3) law enforcement agency capabilities;

6 (4) available resources;

7 (5) emergency radio interoperability;

8 (6) chain of command planning; and

9 (7) other related subjects proposed by a person in
10 attendance at the meeting.

11 (b) The sheriff of a county to which this section applies in
12 which more than one public school is located is only required to
13 hold one [~~semiannual~~] meeting described by Subsection (a) for all
14 the public schools located in the county. This subsection does not
15 require public schools located within the same county to adopt the
16 same school safety policies.

17 SECTION 10. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026
18 school year.

19 SECTION 11. To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails
20 over another Act of the 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025,
21 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
22 codes.

23 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect immediately if it
24 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
25 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
26 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
27 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2025.