Engrossed House Bill 3– Burrows, et al

School Safety

House Bill 3, filed by Burrows; King; Moody; King; Bonnen is a comprehensive school safety bill relating to the development of, implementation of, and funding for public school safety and security requirements. SB 11 is very similar, but not identical to HB 3, so they were not listed as companion bills.

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| Section | Description | Notes |
| 1 | Amends Section 7.028 (a) Education Code. facilities. |  |
| 2 | Amends Section 7.061 (c) Education Code. Requires bi-annual Commissioner/Texas School Safety Center review of school facility safety standards required for new construction and to the extent feasible, existing school facilities, as amended. | School Facility Safety Standards |
| 3 | Adds Section 8.064. Regional education service centers are required to act as a school safety resource. The centers may assist a school district or open-enrollment charter school directly or in collaboration with the Texas School Safety Center and local law enforcement agencies, as applicable | ESC Support for District and Charter Schools |
| 4 | Add requirements for Charters to comply with the new sections of Chapter 37 added by HB 3. | Charter School Compliance |
| 5 | Adds Education Code Section 22.904 related to training all school employees who interact with students to complete mental health training program, subject to commissioner rules. The training is phased in with a requirement to train at least 25% of employees each year until all employees are trained prior to the start of the 2028-29 school year. | Employee Mental Health Training |
| 6 | Education Code, Section 25.002 is amended by adding requirement that when enrolling a student, a parent/guardian must provide a copy of the child ’s disciplinary record and any threat assessment involving the child ’s behavior. | Enrollment Records |
| 7 | Education Code Section 25.036 is amended by adding additional requirements associated with student transfers. A child ’s school district of residence shall provide the receiving district with the child ’s disciplinary record and any threat assessment involving the child ’s behavior conducted under Section 37.115 | Enrollment Records – Student Transfers |
| 8 | Amends Education Code, Section 37.081 by expanding language regarding the employment of security personnel to include provisions for contracts with law enforcement agencies, counties, municipalities and or security services contractors. | Employment of Security Personnel |
| 9 | Education Code, Section 37.0812 is amended by adding requirement for district peace officers and school resource officers to complete and approved active shooter response training at least once every four years. | Required Peace Officer/Resource Officer Training |
| 10 | Amends Education Code, Section 37.0814, to require at least one, armed security officer is present during regular school hours at each district campus. The section goes on to provide a definition of “armed security guard” along with credential/training/law enforcement requirements and restrictions. | Armed Personnel Requirements |
| 11 | Amends Education Code by adding Section 37.089. Adds language regarding roles of persons carrying a firearm on school property. Individuals permitted to carry a firearm on the campus of a school district may not perform the routine law enforcement duties of a peace officer unless the duty is performed in response to an emergency that poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury to a student, school district employee, or other individual at the district. | Role of Armed Individuals |
| 12 | Education Code, Chapter 37.108 is amended by adding requirements to school district and public junior college adoption and implementation of multi-hazard emergency operations plans. Also adds credential requirements for entities performing required security audits. The Texas School Safety Center and the agency shall provide school safety-related data collected by the center or agency to each other on request. | Multi-Hazard Emergency Operations Plans |
| 13 | Education Code Section 37.1081 is amended by adding/altering citations related to required district notices of non-compliance related to safety planning, implementation and audits (37.2071 (d) or (g). | Citation Changes |
| 14 | Education Code is amended by adding Sections 37.1083, 37.1084, 37.1085, 37.1086, and 37.1131. Requires TEA to monitor the implementation and operation of requirements related to school district safety and security, including school district: multi-hazard emergency operations plans; and safety and security audits. Establishes an office of school safety and security within TEA. Provides for multi-agency support, TEA monitoring/auditing of planning and implementation of multi-hazard operations plans and consequences for non-compliance | Support and Accountability – TEA Office of |
| 15 | Education Code, Chapter 37.117 is amended by adding requirement that each district campus establish a clear procedure for a student to report concerning behavior exhibited by another student for assessment by the team or other appropriate school employee. | Behavior Reporting |
| 16 | Requires school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide Emergency Response Maps and opportunities for walk throughs to the Department of Public Safety and all appropriate local law enforcement agencies and emergency first responders | Maps/Walkthroughs |
| 17 | Education Code, Section 37.2071 is amended by expanding requirements associated with the timeline for submission, review and correction of multi-hazard emergency operations plans, along with required notifications and consequences for non-compliance. | School Safety Plans – Compliance/Non-Compliance |
| 18 | Education Code, Chapter 37.2091 is amended by requiring districts to confirm that a person is included in the registry established under Subsection (b) before the district may engage the person to provide school safety or security consulting services to the district. | School Safety Training/Consultation Registry |
| 19 | Education Code, Chapter 37 is amended by adding Sections 37.221 and 37.222 requiring the Texas School Safety Center to review school facility safety standards at least once every five years and make recommendations for changes to the TEA commissioner. | School Safety Standards |
| 20 | Education Code Chapter 37 is amended by adding 37.351 which requires school districts to ensure that each district facility complies with each school facilities standards, including performance standards and operational requirements, related to safety and security adopted under Section 7.061 or provided by other law or agency rule. | Facility Standards |
| 21 | Education Code Section 38.022 is amended by adding language allowing a school district to require appropriate identification for entry to any school facility or upon request. | Entry to School Facilities. |
| 22 | Education Code is amended by adding Section 45.1011, allowing proceeds from the sale of school bonds to be used to pay the costs associated with complying with school safety and security requirements for school facilities in accordance with Section 37.351 under certain circumstances. | Use of Bond Proceeds |
| 23 | Education Code, Section 48.115 is amended by providing at least $10/student + $15,000 per campus in funding for School/Student related safety expenditure. Specific language is provided regarding allowable expenditures and vendors. In earlier versions of the bill funding was a minimum of $100/student + $15,000/campus. | School/Student Safety Funding |
| 24 | Adds Government Code Section 411.951 related to confidentiality of iWatchTexas community. All suspicious activity reports and school safety reports included in the iWatchTexas community reporting system operated by the department are confidential | iWatch Texas Community |
| 25 | Local Government Code, Chapter 85 is amended by adding Section 85.024, which requires semi-annual school safety meetings, called and conducted by the county sheriff with a list of specific topics to be addressed and required attendees at each meeting. Required in counties with a population of under 350,000 | Sheriff Led Safety Meetings |
| 26 | As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall establish the office of school safety and security and the governor shall appoint the director of that office | Office of School Safety |
| 27 | Applicability – Bonds | Bonds |
| 28 | Act prevails over another Act of the 88th Legislature, Regular Session, 2023. | Act Prevalence |
| 29 | Applicability of Mental Health Training schedule as required | Mental Health Training Schedule |
| 30 | Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house. | Effective Date |