

By: Thierry _____ H.B. No. 204 _____

Substitute the following for ___B. No. _____:

By: _____ C.S. ___B. No. _____

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to requiring school districts and open-enrollment charter
3 schools to provide a panic alert device in every classroom.

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

5 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as Alyssa's Law.

6 SECTION 2. Sections 37.108(a) and (f), Education Code, are
7 amended to read as follows:

8 (a) Each school district or public junior college district
9 shall adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan
10 for use in the district's facilities. The plan must address
11 prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery as
12 defined by the Texas School Safety Center in conjunction with the
13 governor's office of homeland security and the commissioner of
14 education or commissioner of higher education, as applicable. The
15 plan must provide for:

16 (1) training in responding to an emergency for
17 district employees, including substitute teachers;

18 (2) measures to ensure district employees, including
19 substitute teachers, have classroom access to:

20 (A) a panic alert device, if the plan applies to a
21 school district, allowing for immediate contact with district
22 emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement
23 agencies, health departments, and fire departments; or

24 (B) a telephone, including a cellular telephone,

1 or another electronic communication device, if the plan applies to
2 a junior college district, allowing for immediate contact with
3 district emergency services or emergency services agencies, law
4 enforcement agencies, health departments, and fire departments;

5 (3) measures to ensure district communications
6 technology and infrastructure are adequate to allow for
7 communication during an emergency;

8 (4) if the plan applies to a school district,
9 mandatory school drills and exercises, including drills required
10 under Section 37.114, to prepare district students and employees
11 for responding to an emergency;

12 (5) measures to ensure coordination with the
13 Department of State Health Services and local emergency management
14 agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire
15 departments in the event of an emergency; and

16 (6) the implementation of a safety and security audit
17 as required by Subsection (b).

18 (f) A school district shall include in its multihazard
19 emergency operations plan:

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

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

1 (3) provisions for ensuring the safety of students in
2 portable buildings;

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

6 (5) provisions for providing immediate notification
7 to parents, guardians, and other persons standing in parental
8 relation in circumstances involving a significant threat to the
9 health or safety of students, including identification of the
10 individual with responsibility for overseeing the notification;

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

15 (A) are aligned with best practice-based
16 programs and research-based practices recommended under Section
17 38.351 [~~161.325, Health and Safety Code~~];

18 (B) include strategies for ensuring any required
19 professional development training for suicide prevention and
20 grief-informed and trauma-informed care is provided to appropriate
21 school personnel;

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

27 (i) members of the district's school safety

1 and security committee under Section 37.109;

2 (ii) district school counselors and mental
3 health professionals; and

4 (iii) educators and other district
5 personnel as determined by the district;

6 (D) include strategies and procedures for
7 integrating and supporting physical and psychological safety that
8 align with the provisions described by Subdivision (2); and

9 (E) implement trauma-informed policies;

10 (7) a policy for providing a substitute teacher access
11 to school campus buildings and materials necessary for the
12 substitute teacher to carry out the duties of a district employee
13 during an emergency or a mandatory emergency drill; ~~and~~

14 (8) the name of each individual on the district's
15 school safety and security committee established under Section
16 37.109 and the date of each committee meeting during the preceding
17 year; and

18 (9) certification that the district is in compliance
19 with Section 37.116, which requires each classroom in the district
20 to be equipped with a panic alert device.

21 SECTION 3. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
22 amended by adding Section 37.116 to read as follows:

23 Sec. 37.116. REQUIRED CLASSROOM PANIC ALERT DEVICE. (a)
24 Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall
25 provide each classroom in the district or school with a panic alert
26 device that allows for immediate contact with district emergency
27 services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement agencies,

1 health departments, and fire departments.

2 (b) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
3 shall use funds provided to the district or school through the
4 school safety allotment under Section 42.168 or other available
5 funds to comply with this section.

6 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024
7 school year.

8 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.