

SUBJECT: Requiring an active shooter emergency policy for school districts

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 13 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Molly Bursey, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America (*Registered, but did not testify*: Diana Earl, Every Town for Gun Safety, Moms Demand Action; Aimee Bertrand, Harris County Commissioners Court; Vicki Altounian, Bergan Casey, Elizabeth Crosby, Rebecca Defelice, Karen Gentry, Nicole Golden, Melanie Greene, Christine Hinkle, Jenny Johnson, Heather Kennedy, Emma Mancha-Sumners, Jennifer Price, Hilary Whitfield, and Jennifer Zoghby, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense in America; Susan Pintchovski, Moms Demand Action for Gun Sense Texas; Dale Laine, MutuaLink; Kyle Piccola, Arc of Texas; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Marissa Gough; Mistie Hower; Ernest Patino; Sandra Sutton)

Against — None

On — Adrian Gaspar, Disability Rights Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*: Megan Aghazadian and Von Byer, Texas Education Agency; Craig Schiebel)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 37.108 requires each school district or public junior college district to adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operation plan that addresses mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery for certain emergency situations. Documents relating to the district's plan are subject to disclosure for certain purposes.

Concerned parties have noted that schools are not required to have a plan in place in the event of an active shooter.

DIGEST:

HB 2195 would require a school district to include in its multihazard emergency operations plan a policy for responding to an active shooter emergency. The bill would allow the district to use any available community resources in developing the operations plan.

A document relating to the multihazard operations plan would be subject to disclosure if it enabled a person to verify that the district had established a policy for responding to an active shooter emergency.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.