

**SUBJECT:** Requiring training for school district peace and resource officers

**COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended

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

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; Deborah Fowler, Texas Appleseed; Kyle Piccola, The Arc of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matt Simpson, ACLU of Texas; Jacquie Benestante, Autism Society of Texas; Jo DePrang, Children's Defense Fund-Texas; Chris Jones, CLEAT; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Lisa Flores, EasterSeals Central Texas; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas; Marilyn Hartman and Tesia Krzeminski, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Austin; Greg Hansch and Alissa Sughrue, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Sophie Torres, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children; Patty Quinzi, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Jan Friese, Texas Counseling Association; Gyl Switzer, Texas Gun Sense; Velma Ybarra, Texas Latino Education Coalition; Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent; Craig Goralski, Texas School District Police Chiefs Association; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Nataly Saucedo, United Ways of Texas; Emma Thomson)

Against — None

On — Tiffany Williams, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Morgan Craven, Intercultural Development Research Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Antu, Texas Commission on Law Enforcement; Von Byer and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency; Craig Schiebel)

**BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 37.0812 requires a school district with an enrollment of at least 30,000 that commissions a school district peace officer or at which a school resource officer provides law enforcement to adopt a policy requiring the officer to complete the program approved by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement.

The program requires at least 16 hours of training in accordance with certain subjects relevant to peace and resource officers in a school.

It has been noted that school district peace officers and school resource officers in districts of all sizes have expressed a need for training that specifically applies to minors in a school setting.

**DIGEST:** CSHB 876 would require each school district that commissioned a school district peace officer or had a resource officer provide law enforcement at a school district to adopt a policy requiring the officer to complete the education and training program before or within 180 days, rather than the 120 days under current law, of the officer's commission or placement in the district or campus of the district.

A school district with an enrollment under 30,000 students would be required to adopt a training policy for school district peace officers and school resource officers by October 1, 2019. Officers hired before September 1, 2019, would be required to complete the training required by the bill by August 31, 2020.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.