

SUBJECT: Requiring suicide prevention information on certain student ID cards

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Dutton, Lozano, Allen, Bernal, Buckley, Huberty, K. King, Meza, Talarico, VanDeaver

2 nays — Allison, K. Bell

1 absent — M. González

WITNESSES: For — Ana O'Quin, National Alliance on Mental Illness TX; Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Jennifer Toon, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Elisa Tamayo, Emergence Health Network; Vanessa Beltran, Girls Empowerment Network; Valerie DeBill, League of Women Voters of Texas; Annalee Gulley, Mental Health America of Greater Houston; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Alison Mohr Boleware, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Hillary Lilly, San Antonio ISD; Grover Campbell, TASB; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Amanda Afifi, Texas Association of School Psychologists; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Lee Johnson, Texas Council of Community Centers; Jan Friese, Texas Counseling Association; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Clayton Stewart, Texas Medical Association; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Starlee Coleman, Texas Public Charter Schools Association; Laura Atlas Kravitz, Texas State Teachers Association; Gilbert Zavala, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Knox Kimberly, Upbring; Ramiro Canales; Susana Carranza; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Education Code ch. 38, subch. G requires the Texas Education Agency and Health and Human Services Commission to provide programs and practices for mental health and substance abuse prevention and intervention, and suicide prevention.

Concerned parties have noted that during the pandemic some students have felt isolated due to limited access to their peers and support networks. Some have called for the state to raise awareness and promote mental health services available to students.

DIGEST: HB 1754 would require that all student identification cards issued by a public school to a student in grade six or higher include contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.

The provisions of this bill would apply beginning with student identification cards issued for the 2022-2023 school year.

The 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, 2021.