

- SUBJECT:** Instituting trauma-informed care policy plans for school districts
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — Dutton, Lozano, Allen, Allison, Bernal, Huberty, K. King, Meza, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 2 nays — K. Bell, Buckley
- 1 absent — M. González
- WITNESSES:** For — Alison Mohr Boleware, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Alison Fernandez, Spark Change Project; (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Anderson, Arlington ISD Board of Trustees; Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Christine Bryan, Clarity Child Guidance Center; Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; Vanessa Beltran, Girls Empowerment Network; Chloe Latham Sikes, Intercultural Development Research Association; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc.; Greg Hansch and Ana O'Quin, National Alliance on Mental Illness TX; Micaela Williams, Spark Change Project; Maggie Luna, Statewide; Grover Campbell, TASB; Katie Mitten, Texans Care for Children; Dena Donaldson, Texas AFT; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Amanda Afifi, Texas Association of School Psychologists; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Koretta Brown, Texas Organizing Project; Kevin Stewart, Texas Psychological Association; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas; Meghan Dougherty; Theresa Trevino)
- Against — None
- On — Craig Goralski, Texas Education Agency; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 38.036 requires each school district to adopt and implement a policy to integrate trauma-informed practices in each school

environment.

Interested parties have called for better support for educators and students following natural disasters and traumatic events.

DIGEST:

CSHB 4257 would require a district to include in its trauma-informed care policy a plan for providing support to students, teachers, and district staff in the event of a crisis, including through methods such as psychological first aid and referrals to district mental health professionals, if available, and community providers for mental health services.

The bill's provisions would apply beginning with the 2021-2022 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.