

1-1 By: McLaughlin, et al. H.B. No. 33
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Flores, et al.)
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 29, 2025;
 1-4 April 29, 2025, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-5 Criminal Justice; May 14, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-6 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
 1-7 May 14, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9				
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			

1-17 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 33 By: Hinojosa of Hidalgo

1-18 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-19 AN ACT

1-20 relating to active shooter incidents at primary and secondary
 1-21 school facilities and other emergencies.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Uvalde Strong Act.

1-24 SECTION 2. Section 12.104(b), Education Code, is amended to
 1-25 read as follows:

1-26 (b) An open-enrollment charter school is subject to:

1-27 (1) a provision of this title establishing a criminal
 1-28 offense;

1-29 (2) the provisions in Chapter 554, Government Code;
 1-30 and

1-31 (3) a prohibition, restriction, or requirement, as
 1-32 applicable, imposed by this title or a rule adopted under this
 1-33 title, relating to:

1-34 (A) the Public Education Information Management
 1-35 System (PEIMS) to the extent necessary to monitor compliance with
 1-36 this subchapter as determined by the commissioner;

1-37 (B) criminal history records under Subchapter C,
 1-38 Chapter 22;

1-39 (C) reading instruments and accelerated reading
 1-40 instruction programs under Section 28.006;

1-41 (D) accelerated instruction under Section
 1-42 28.0211;

1-43 (E) high school graduation requirements under
 1-44 Section 28.025;

1-45 (F) special education programs under Subchapter
 1-46 A, Chapter 29;

1-47 (G) bilingual education under Subchapter B,
 1-48 Chapter 29;

1-49 (H) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E
 1-50 or E-1, Chapter 29, except class size limits for prekindergarten
 1-51 classes imposed under Section 25.112, which do not apply;

1-52 (I) extracurricular activities under Section
 1-53 33.081;

1-54 (J) discipline management practices or behavior
 1-55 management techniques under Section 37.0021;

1-56 (K) health and safety under Chapter 38;

1-57 (L) the provisions of Subchapter A, Chapter 39;

1-58 (M) public school accountability and special
 1-59 investigations under Subchapters A, B, C, D, F, G, and J, Chapter
 1-60 39, and Chapter 39A;

2-1 (N) the requirement under Section 21.006 to
 2-2 report an educator's misconduct;
 2-3 (O) intensive programs of instruction under
 2-4 Section 28.0213;
 2-5 (P) the right of a school employee to report a
 2-6 crime, as provided by Section 37.148;
 2-7 (Q) bullying prevention policies and procedures
 2-8 under Section 37.0832;
 2-9 (R) the right of a school under Section 37.0052
 2-10 to place a student who has engaged in certain bullying behavior in a
 2-11 disciplinary alternative education program or to expel the student;
 2-12 (S) the right under Section 37.0151 to report to
 2-13 local law enforcement certain conduct constituting assault or
 2-14 harassment;
 2-15 (T) a parent's right to information regarding the
 2-16 provision of assistance for learning difficulties to the parent's
 2-17 child as provided by Sections 26.004(b)(11) and 26.0081(c) and (d);
 2-18 (U) establishment of residency under Section
 2-19 25.001;
 2-20 (V) school safety requirements under Sections
 2-21 37.0814, 37.108, 37.1081, 37.1082, 37.1083, 37.1084, 37.1085,
 2-22 37.1086, 37.1087, 37.109, 37.113, 37.114, 37.1141, 37.115, 37.207,
 2-23 and 37.2071 and Subchapter J, Chapter 37;
 2-24 (W) the early childhood literacy and mathematics
 2-25 proficiency plans under Section 11.185;
 2-26 (X) the college, career, and military readiness
 2-27 plans under Section 11.186; and
 2-28 (Y) parental options to retain a student under
 2-29 Section 28.02124.
 2-30 SECTION 3. Sections 37.108(a) and (b), Education Code, are
 2-31 amended to read as follows:
 2-32 (a) Each school district or public junior college district
 2-33 shall adopt and implement a multihazard emergency operations plan
 2-34 for use in the district's facilities. The plan must address
 2-35 prevention, mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery,
 2-36 including the prompt recovery of services provided by the school
 2-37 district or public junior college district, as defined by the Texas
 2-38 School Safety Center in conjunction with the governor's office of
 2-39 homeland security, the commissioner of education, and the
 2-40 commissioner of higher education. The plan must provide for:
 2-41 (1) training in responding to an emergency for
 2-42 district employees, including substitute teachers;
 2-43 (2) measures to ensure district employees, including
 2-44 substitute teachers, have classroom access to a telephone,
 2-45 including a cellular telephone, or another electronic
 2-46 communication device allowing for immediate contact with district
 2-47 emergency services or emergency services agencies, law enforcement
 2-48 agencies, health departments, and fire departments;
 2-49 (3) measures to ensure district communications
 2-50 technology and infrastructure are adequate to allow for
 2-51 communication during an emergency, including measures to ensure the
 2-52 use of standardized response protocol terminology, developed in
 2-53 coordination with the Texas School Safety Center, to facilitate
 2-54 communication between law enforcement, emergency services,
 2-55 district employees, and the public;
 2-56 (4) if the plan applies to a school district,
 2-57 mandatory school drills and exercises, including drills required
 2-58 under Section 37.114, to prepare district students and employees
 2-59 for responding to an emergency;
 2-60 (5) measures to ensure coordination with the
 2-61 Department of State Health Services and local emergency management
 2-62 agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire
 2-63 departments in the event of an emergency;
 2-64 (6) the implementation of a safety and security audit
 2-65 as required by Subsection (b); and
 2-66 (7) any other requirements established by the Texas
 2-67 School Safety Center in consultation with the agency and relevant
 2-68 local law enforcement agencies.
 2-69 (b) At least once every three years, each school district or

3-1 public junior college district shall conduct a safety and security
 3-2 audit of the district's facilities that includes a security review
 3-3 as described by Section 37.1087 for each district facility. A
 3-4 district, or a person included in the registry established by the
 3-5 Texas School Safety Center under Section 37.2091 who is engaged by
 3-6 the district to conduct a safety and security audit, shall follow
 3-7 safety and security audit procedures developed by the Texas School
 3-8 Safety Center in coordination with the commissioner of education or
 3-9 commissioner of higher education, as applicable.

3-10 SECTION 4. Section 37.1083(a), Education Code, is amended
 3-11 to read as follows:

3-12 (a) The agency shall monitor the implementation and
 3-13 operation of requirements related to school district safety and
 3-14 security, including school district:

- 3-15 (1) multihazard emergency operations plans; ~~and~~
- 3-16 (2) safety and security audits; and
- 3-17 (3) security reviews.

3-18 SECTION 5. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
 3-19 amended by adding Section 37.1087 to read as follows:

3-20 Sec. 37.1087. SECURITY REVIEW. (a) If a school district
 3-21 constructs, acquires, renovates, or improves a district facility,
 3-22 the district shall, as soon as practicable, conduct a security
 3-23 review of the facility to:

- 3-24 (1) determine whether the facility meets school safety
 3-25 and security requirements as described by commissioner rule; and
- 3-26 (2) identify security vulnerabilities at the facility
 3-27 in the event of an active shooter incident and describe strategies
 3-28 to mitigate each vulnerability identified.

3-29 (b) The commissioner, in consultation with the Department
 3-30 of Public Safety, the Texas Division of Emergency Management, and
 3-31 the Texas School Safety Center, shall ensure that the rules adopted
 3-32 or amended under Section 7.061 include rules for the review
 3-33 required under this section.

3-34 SECTION 6. Subchapter D, Chapter 37, Education Code, is
 3-35 amended by adding Section 37.1171 to read as follows:

3-36 Sec. 37.1171. AVAILABILITY OF BREACHING TOOL AND BALLISTIC
 3-37 SHIELD. Each school district and open-enrollment charter school
 3-38 must have at least one breaching tool and one ballistic shield
 3-39 available for use at each campus in the event of an active shooter
 3-40 incident.

3-41 SECTION 7. Section 51.217(b), Education Code, is amended to
 3-42 read as follows:

3-43 (b) An institution shall adopt and implement a multihazard
 3-44 emergency operations plan for use at the institution. The plan must
 3-45 address mitigation, preparedness, response, and recovery,
 3-46 including the prompt recovery of services provided by the
 3-47 institution. The plan must provide for:

- 3-48 (1) employee training in responding to an emergency;
- 3-49 (2) mandatory drills to prepare students, faculty, and
 3-50 employees for responding to an emergency;
- 3-51 (3) measures to ensure coordination with the
 3-52 Department of State Health Services, local emergency management
 3-53 agencies, law enforcement, health departments, and fire
 3-54 departments in the event of an emergency; and
- 3-55 (4) the implementation of a safety and security audit
 3-56 as required by Subsection (c).

3-57 SECTION 8. Subchapter C, Chapter 96, Education Code, is
 3-58 amended by adding Section 96.42 to read as follows:

3-59 Sec. 96.42. ADVANCED LAW ENFORCEMENT RAPID RESPONSE
 3-60 TRAINING CENTER; CERTAIN DUTIES. (a) In this section:

- 3-61 (1) "Center" means the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid
 3-62 Response Training Center at Texas State University--San Marcos.
- 3-63 (2) "Emergency medical services personnel" and
 3-64 "emergency medical services provider" have the meanings assigned by
 3-65 Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

3-66 (3) "Local law enforcement agency" means a political
 3-67 subdivision of this state authorized by law to employ or appoint
 3-68 peace officers.

3-69 (b) The center shall create a template for use by a local law

4-1 enforcement agency or emergency medical services provider in
 4-2 evaluating and reporting on the agency's or provider's response to
 4-3 an active shooter incident at a primary or secondary school
 4-4 facility under Section 418.1873, Government Code. The center may
 4-5 collaborate with the Texas Division of Emergency Management, the
 4-6 Department of Public Safety, the Sheriffs' Association of Texas, or
 4-7 the Texas Police Chiefs Association to develop the template. The
 4-8 template must include:

- 4-9 (1) prompts for reporting on the following items:
- 4-10 (A) a brief description and outcome of the active
 4-11 shooter incident;
 - 4-12 (B) a statement of personnel and equipment
 4-13 deployed during the incident;
 - 4-14 (C) a cost analysis, including salaries,
 4-15 equipment, and incidentals;
 - 4-16 (D) a copy of appropriate incident logs and
 4-17 reports;
 - 4-18 (E) any maps, forms, or related documentation
 4-19 used in responding to or evaluating the agency's or provider's
 4-20 response to the incident;
 - 4-21 (F) a summary of any deaths or injuries that
 4-22 occurred as a result of the incident;
 - 4-23 (G) any information relating to the status of
 4-24 criminal investigations and subsequent prosecutions arising out of
 4-25 the incident; and
 - 4-26 (H) a final evaluation, including:
 - 4-27 (i) conclusions relating to the agency's or
 4-28 provider's response to the incident;
 - 4-29 (ii) problems encountered during the
 4-30 response regarding personnel, equipment, resources, or multiagency
 4-31 response;
 - 4-32 (iii) suggestions for revising policy, such
 4-33 as improving training and equipment; and
 - 4-34 (iv) any additional considerations that
 4-35 would improve the agency's or provider's response to active shooter
 4-36 incidents at primary or secondary school facilities in the future;
 4-37 and
- 4-38 (2) any other content the center considers
 4-39 appropriate.

4-40 (c) The center shall develop a training program for peace
 4-41 officers and emergency medical services personnel for responding to
 4-42 active shooter incidents at primary and secondary school facilities
 4-43 as required by Section 418.1877(b), Government Code. In developing
 4-44 the training program, the center:

4-45 (1) shall incorporate, if available, the findings of
 4-46 at least one final report submitted under Section 418.1873,
 4-47 Government Code, regarding a local law enforcement agency's or
 4-48 emergency medical services provider's response to an active shooter
 4-49 incident at a primary or secondary school facility; and

4-50 (2) may collaborate with the Texas Division of
 4-51 Emergency Management, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement, the
 4-52 Department of Public Safety, or the Department of State Health
 4-53 Services.

4-54 (d) In developing the training program under Subsection
 4-55 (c), if a report described by Subsection (c)(1) is not immediately
 4-56 available, the center shall update the training program as soon as a
 4-57 report described by that subdivision becomes available to
 4-58 incorporate the report's findings.

4-59 SECTION 9. Subchapter L-1, Chapter 411, Government Code, is
 4-60 amended by adding Section 411.3735 to read as follows:

4-61 Sec. 411.3735. CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
 4-62 REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS. (a) In this
 4-63 section:

4-64 (1) "Division" means the Texas Division of Emergency
 4-65 Management.

4-66 (2) "Public information officer" means an individual
 4-67 who is employed or appointed by a state agency or local government
 4-68 entity and whose duties include communicating with the public
 4-69 during a disaster regarding the disaster.

5-1 (b) Each of the following entities shall employ or appoint a
5-2 public information officer who must obtain certification in
5-3 emergency communications from the division and complete continuing
5-4 education on emergency communications as provided by Subchapter K,
5-5 Chapter 418:

- 5-6 (1) a municipal police department;
- 5-7 (2) a sheriff's office;
- 5-8 (3) a county constable's office;
- 5-9 (4) a school district police department; and
- 5-10 (5) the department.

5-11 (c) The chief administrative officer of an agency may be
5-12 appointed or employed as a public information officer.

5-13 SECTION 10. Subchapter C, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
5-14 amended by adding Section 418.059 to read as follows:

5-15 Sec. 418.059. GUIDE ON PREPARING FOR AND RESPONDING TO
5-16 ACTIVE SHOOTER INCIDENT AT SCHOOL FACILITY. (a) The division, in
5-17 coordination with the Emergency Management Council, shall develop a
5-18 guide on preparing for and responding to an active shooter incident
5-19 at a primary or secondary school facility for civic, volunteer, and
5-20 community organizations.

5-21 (b) The division shall post the guide on the division's
5-22 Internet website for public use. The guide must provide a
5-23 comprehensive approach to preparing for and responding to active
5-24 shooter incidents at primary and secondary school facilities and
5-25 include information on:

- 5-26 (1) understanding mass violence incidents and best
5-27 practices for community engagement related to those incidents;
- 5-28 (2) incident command structure;
- 5-29 (3) coordination of and access to resources, including
5-30 trauma and support services, acute support services, long-term
5-31 support services, spiritual support services, and family or victim
5-32 assistance;
- 5-33 (4) long-term recovery and community resilience;
- 5-34 (5) communication coordination;
- 5-35 (6) training and planning resources; and
- 5-36 (7) preserving and restoring community cohesion and
5-37 public life after the incident.

5-38 (c) In developing and revising the guide, the division may,
5-39 in collaboration with the department, seek the advice and
5-40 assistance of local governments, civic organizations, volunteer
5-41 organizations, and community leaders.

5-42 SECTION 11. Subchapter H, Chapter 418, Government Code, is
5-43 amended by adding Sections 418.1873 and 418.1877 to read as
5-44 follows:

5-45 Sec. 418.1873. EVALUATION AND REPORT ON RESPONSE TO ACTIVE
5-46 SHOOTER INCIDENT AT SCHOOL FACILITY REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN ENTITIES.

5-47 (a) In this section:

5-48 (1) "Emergency medical services" and "emergency
5-49 medical services provider" have the meanings assigned by Section
5-50 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

5-51 (2) "Local law enforcement agency" means a political
5-52 subdivision of this state authorized by law to employ or appoint
5-53 peace officers.

5-54 (b) Each local law enforcement agency and emergency medical
5-55 services provider that responds to an active shooter incident at a
5-56 primary or secondary school facility by providing law enforcement
5-57 services or emergency medical services, or both, shall:

5-58 (1) not later than the 45th day after the date of the
5-59 incident, or as soon as practicable thereafter, initiate an
5-60 evaluation of the agency's or provider's response to the incident
5-61 and submit a preliminary report to the division, the department,
5-62 and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at
5-63 Texas State University--San Marcos regarding, at minimum, the items
5-64 required in the template created under Section 96.42, Education
5-65 Code; and

5-66 (2) not later than the 90th day after the date of the
5-67 incident, or as soon as practicable thereafter, finalize the report
5-68 described by Subdivision (1) and submit the report to the division,
5-69 the department, and the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response

6-1 Training Center at Texas State University--San Marcos.

6-2 (c) For purposes of implementing this section:

6-3 (1) the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall
6-4 adopt rules with respect to local law enforcement agencies; and

6-5 (2) the division shall adopt rules with respect to
6-6 emergency medical services and emergency medical services
6-7 providers.

6-8 (d) The division, in coordination with the Texas School
6-9 Safety Center, shall by rule define "active shooter incident" as an
6-10 incident involving an active shooter, as that term is defined by the
6-11 Federal Bureau of Investigation.

6-12 (e) A local law enforcement agency or emergency medical
6-13 services provider that complies with this section regarding an
6-14 active shooter incident at a primary or secondary school facility
6-15 is not required to conduct any evaluation or issue any report that
6-16 may be required under Section 418.188 regarding that incident.

6-17 (f) Information obtained or created by the division or the
6-18 department in carrying out their obligations under this section are
6-19 confidential and are not subject to disclosure under Chapter 552.

6-20 (g) Any meetings between a law enforcement agency or
6-21 emergency medical services provider and the division or the
6-22 department are not subject to the open meeting requirements of
6-23 Chapter 551.

6-24 Sec. 418.1877. TRAINING ON RESPONSES TO ACTIVE SHOOTER
6-25 INCIDENTS AT SCHOOL FACILITIES REQUIRED. (a) In this section:

6-26 (1) "Emergency medical services personnel" and
6-27 "emergency medical services provider" have the meanings assigned by
6-28 Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

6-29 (2) "Local law enforcement agency" has the meaning
6-30 assigned by Section 418.1873.

6-31 (b) The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement by rule shall
6-32 require the peace officers of each local law enforcement agency to
6-33 complete a training program for responding to active shooter
6-34 incidents at primary and secondary school facilities developed by
6-35 the Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at
6-36 Texas State University--San Marcos as required by Section 96.42,
6-37 Education Code.

6-38 (c) The division by rule shall require the emergency medical
6-39 services personnel of each emergency medical services provider to
6-40 complete a training program for responding to active shooter
6-41 incidents at primary and secondary school facilities developed by
6-42 the division. The training program must involve reviewing at least
6-43 one final evaluation and report required by Section 418.1873.

6-44 (d) The division, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement,
6-45 and the Department of State Health Services may adopt rules to
6-46 enforce this section.

6-47 SECTION 12. Chapter 418, Government Code, is amended by
6-48 adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

6-49 SUBCHAPTER K. CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION REQUIRED FOR
6-50 CERTAIN PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS

6-51 Sec. 418.331. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "public
6-52 information officer" means an individual who is employed or
6-53 appointed by a state agency, local government entity, or
6-54 open-enrollment charter school and whose duties include
6-55 communicating with the public during a disaster regarding the
6-56 disaster.

6-57 Sec. 418.332. CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION
6-58 REQUIRED FOR CERTAIN PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICERS. (a) Each of the
6-59 following entities shall employ or appoint a public information
6-60 officer who must obtain certification in emergency communications
6-61 from the division and complete continuing education on emergency
6-62 communications as provided by this subchapter:

- 6-63 (1) a municipality;
- 6-64 (2) a county;
- 6-65 (3) an independent school district;
- 6-66 (4) an open-enrollment charter school; and
- 6-67 (5) the division.

6-68 (b) The chief administrator of an agency may be appointed or
6-69 employed as a public information officer.

7-1 Sec. 418.333. CERTIFICATION AND CONTINUING EDUCATION. (a)
7-2 A public information officer described by Sections 411.3735 and
7-3 418.332 shall:

7-4 (1) obtain certification from the division in
7-5 emergency communications not later than the first anniversary of
7-6 the date the public information officer was hired or appointed; and

7-7 (2) complete a continuing education program on
7-8 emergency communications approved by the division once during each
7-9 12-month period beginning on the date the public information
7-10 officer obtained certification.

7-11 (b) The division shall establish minimum education and
7-12 training requirements for initial certification and continuing
7-13 education under this subchapter. The minimum requirements must
7-14 comply with the policies and standards developed by the Texas
7-15 Commission on Law Enforcement under Section 1701.163, Occupations
7-16 Code. These minimum requirements must include courses on:

7-17 (1) the National Incident Management System;

7-18 (2) the Incident Command System; and

7-19 (3) the basic skills and principles necessary to
7-20 fulfill the role of a public information officer with respect to
7-21 emergency communications.

7-22 (c) The division shall assist the entities subject to
7-23 Sections 411.3735 and 418.332 in identifying approved training
7-24 programs.

7-25 (d) The following courses may be taken to satisfy minimum
7-26 education and training requirements under this subchapter:

7-27 (1) a course provided by the Bill Blackwood Law
7-28 Enforcement Management Institute of Texas; or

7-29 (2) a course approved by the Texas Commission on Law
7-30 Enforcement.

7-31 Sec. 418.334. COMPLIANCE RECORDS; INSPECTION. (a) Each
7-32 entity subject to Section 418.332 shall:

7-33 (1) maintain records that demonstrate the compliance
7-34 of each public information officer employed or appointed by that
7-35 entity with the certification and continuing education
7-36 requirements of this subchapter; and

7-37 (2) submit to the division the compliance records
7-38 required to be maintained under Subdivision (1).

7-39 (b) The division shall permit inspection and copying by the
7-40 department of the compliance records the division maintains under
7-41 Subsection (a)(1) during reasonable hours and in a reasonable
7-42 manner.

7-43 Sec. 418.335. RULES. The division may adopt rules to
7-44 administer this subchapter.

7-45 SECTION 13. Subchapter A, Chapter 772, Government Code, is
7-46 amended by adding Sections 772.00791, 772.013, and 772.014 to read
7-47 as follows:

7-48 Sec. 772.00791. FIRST RESPONDER AND TELECOMMUNICATOR
7-49 ACTIVE ATTACK INTEGRATED RESPONSE TRAINING GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In
7-50 this section:

7-51 (1) "Criminal justice division" means the criminal
7-52 justice division established under Section 772.006.

7-53 (2) "First responder" has the meaning assigned by
7-54 Section 772.013.

7-55 (3) "Telecommunicator" has the meaning assigned by
7-56 Section 1701.001, Occupations Code.

7-57 (b) The criminal justice division shall establish and
7-58 administer a grant program to provide financial assistance to first
7-59 responders and telecommunicators for the purpose of attending an
7-60 active attack integrated response training course through the
7-61 Advanced Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas
7-62 State University--San Marcos or a similar course approved by the
7-63 division.

7-64 (c) The criminal justice division shall establish:

7-65 (1) eligibility criteria for grant applicants;

7-66 (2) grant application procedures;

7-67 (3) criteria for evaluating grant applications and
7-68 awarding grants;

7-69 (4) guidelines related to grant amounts; and

8-1 (5) procedures for monitoring the use of a grant
8-2 awarded under this section and ensuring compliance with any
8-3 conditions of the grant.

8-4 (d) The criminal justice division may use any revenue
8-5 available for purposes of this section.

8-6 Sec. 772.013. COMPLEX EMERGENCY RESPONSE AND INVESTIGATION
8-7 PLANNING FOR DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY AND CERTAIN POLITICAL
8-8 SUBDIVISIONS. (a) In this section:

8-9 (1) "Department" means the Department of Public
8-10 Safety.

8-11 (2) "First responder" means:
8-12 (A) a peace officer described by Article 2A.001,
8-13 Code of Criminal Procedure;

8-14 (B) an individual included as fire protection
8-15 personnel by Section 419.021; and

8-16 (C) an individual included as emergency medical
8-17 services personnel by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.

8-18 (b) To prepare for complex responses to and investigations
8-19 of emergencies that require mutual aid and support from more than
8-20 one governmental entity, the department shall consult with the
8-21 sheriff of each county in which a primary or secondary school
8-22 facility is located to determine which governmental entities that
8-23 employ a first responder are reasonably likely, in the sheriff's
8-24 opinion, to respond to an active shooter incident at one of those
8-25 facilities.

8-26 (c) The department, each sheriff described by Subsection
8-27 (b), and each governmental entity identified by the sheriff under
8-28 that subsection shall collectively participate in:

8-29 (1) a multiagency tabletop exercise at least once each
8-30 odd-numbered year; and

8-31 (2) an in-person drill at least once each
8-32 even-numbered year.

8-33 (d) The department shall invite any appropriate federal
8-34 agency to participate in an exercise described by Subsection (c).

8-35 Sec. 772.014. MUTUAL AID AGREEMENTS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT OF
8-36 PUBLIC SAFETY AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES. (a) In this
8-37 section, "department" means the Department of Public Safety.

8-38 (b) The department and each governmental entity identified
8-39 by a sheriff under Section 772.013(b) shall collectively enter into
8-40 a mutual aid agreement that establishes the procedures for the
8-41 provision of resources, personnel, facilities, equipment, and
8-42 supplies in responses to critical incidents in a vertically
8-43 integrated fashion.

8-44 (c) In establishing the procedures, the department and
8-45 local law enforcement agencies shall:

8-46 (1) give priority to establishing the
8-47 interoperability of communications equipment among the parties to
8-48 the agreement;

8-49 (2) establish procedures for interagency coordination
8-50 in activities arising from critical incidents, including evidence
8-51 collection;

8-52 (3) set jurisdictional boundaries; and

8-53 (4) determine the capabilities, processes, and
8-54 expectations among the parties to the agreement.

8-55 (d) The department shall invite any appropriate federal
8-56 agency to enter into the agreement described by Subsection (b).

8-57 SECTION 14. Section 85.024, Local Government Code, is
8-58 amended by amending Subsections (a) and (c) and adding Subsection
8-59 (c-1) to read as follows:

8-60 (a) The sheriff of a county [~~with a total population of less~~
8-61 ~~than 350,000~~] in which a public school is located shall call and
8-62 conduct an annual meeting [~~semiannual meetings~~] to discuss:

8-63 (1) school safety;

8-64 (2) coordinated law enforcement response to school
8-65 violence incidents;

8-66 (3) law enforcement agency capabilities;

8-67 (4) available resources;

8-68 (5) emergency radio interoperability;

8-69 (6) chain of command planning; [~~and~~]

9-1 (7) each public school's multihazard emergency
9-2 operations plan, including a discussion and analysis of how the
9-3 school's multihazard emergency operations plan would be
9-4 implemented in an emergency situation; and

9-5 (8) other related subjects proposed by a person in
9-6 attendance at the meeting.

9-7 (c) In a county with a population of less than 350,000, the
9-8 [The] following persons shall attend a meeting called under
9-9 Subsection (a):

9-10 (1) the sheriff or the sheriff's designee;

9-11 (2) the police chief of a municipal police department
9-12 in the county or the police chief's designee;

9-13 (3) each elected constable in the county or the
9-14 constable's designees;

9-15 (4) each police chief of a school district's police
9-16 department or school district security coordinator from each school
9-17 district located in the county;

9-18 (5) a representative of the Department of Public
9-19 Safety assigned to the county;

9-20 (6) a representative of each other state agency with
9-21 commissioned peace officers assigned to the county;

9-22 (7) a person appointed to a command staff position at
9-23 an emergency medical service in the county;

9-24 (8) a person appointed to a command staff position at a
9-25 municipal emergency medical service in the county;

9-26 (9) a person appointed to a command staff position at a
9-27 fire department in the county;

9-28 (10) the superintendent or the superintendent's
9-29 designee of each school district located in the county;

9-30 (11) the person who serves the function of
9-31 superintendent, or that person's designee, in each open-enrollment
9-32 charter school located in the county; [and]

9-33 (12) a representative of the Texas Division of
9-34 Emergency Management; and

9-35 (13) any other person the sheriff considers
9-36 appropriate.

9-37 (c-1) In a county with a population of 350,000 or more, the
9-38 following persons shall attend a meeting called under Subsection
9-39 (a):

9-40 (1) for each school district located in the county,
9-41 either:

9-42 (A) the police chief of the district's police
9-43 department, or the chief's designee; or

9-44 (B) if the district contracts with another
9-45 political subdivision for law enforcement services, the chief
9-46 administrative officer of the law enforcement agency providing law
9-47 enforcement services to the district, or the officer's designee;

9-48 (2) the superintendent of each school district located
9-49 in the county; and

9-50 (3) any other person the sheriff considers
9-51 appropriate.

9-52 SECTION 15. Chapter 391, Local Government Code, is amended
9-53 by adding Section 391.0041 to read as follows:

9-54 Sec. 391.0041. MENTAL HEALTH RESOURCES PLAN FOR FIRST
9-55 RESPONDER INVOLVED IN CRITICAL INCIDENT. (a) In this section:

9-56 (1) "Council of governments" means a regional planning
9-57 commission for a state planning region created under this chapter.

9-58 (2) "Critical incident" means an incident involving a
9-59 first responder that occurs while the first responder is performing
9-60 official duties and that results in serious bodily injury to the
9-61 first responder or poses a substantial risk of serious bodily
9-62 injury or death to the first responder or of serious harm to the
9-63 first responder's mental health or well-being.

9-64 (3) "First responder" means:

9-65 (A) a peace officer described by Article 2A.001,
9-66 Code of Criminal Procedure;

9-67 (B) an individual included as fire protection
9-68 personnel by Section 419.021, Government Code; and

9-69 (C) an individual included as emergency medical

10-1 services personnel by Section 773.003, Health and Safety Code.
 10-2 (b) The Texas Division of Emergency Management, in
 10-3 coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission and the
 10-4 Department of State Health Services, shall:
 10-5 (1) develop a mental health resources plan to address
 10-6 the mental health needs of first responders following a critical
 10-7 incident; and
 10-8 (2) provide the plan to each local emergency
 10-9 management director in the state.
 10-10 (c) A plan developed under Subsection (b):
 10-11 (1) must identify and provide for:
 10-12 (A) education and training to a first responder
 10-13 prior to a critical incident on topics including:
 10-14 (i) the potential psychological impact that
 10-15 being involved in an incident may have on the first responder; and
 10-16 (ii) resources available to the first
 10-17 responder to address the psychological impact of an incident,
 10-18 including mental health counseling, peer support programs, and
 10-19 stress management practices; or
 10-20 (B) a list of recommended providers located
 10-21 within the territory of the council of governments who can provide
 10-22 the education and training described by Paragraph (A);
 10-23 (2) may recommend that an employer of a first
 10-24 responder:
 10-25 (A) create a process to conduct a critical
 10-26 incident stress debriefing following an incident; and
 10-27 (B) create a peer support program to support the
 10-28 first responder following an incident; and
 10-29 (3) may include any other recommendation the council
 10-30 of governments considers appropriate to address the mental health
 10-31 needs of a first responder following a critical incident.
 10-32 (d) Each political subdivision that receives a plan under
 10-33 this section shall:
 10-34 (1) implement the plan; and
 10-35 (2) share the plan with each council of governments
 10-36 that has jurisdiction over the political subdivision to ensure
 10-37 regional plan integration and awareness.
 10-38 SECTION 16. Section 1701.163, Occupations Code, is amended
 10-39 to read as follows:
 10-40 Sec. 1701.163. MINIMUM STANDARDS FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT
 10-41 AGENCIES. (a) The commission, with input from an advisory
 10-42 committee, shall by rule establish minimum standards with respect
 10-43 to the creation or continued operation of a law enforcement agency
 10-44 based on the function, size, and jurisdiction of the agency,
 10-45 including:
 10-46 (1) a determination regarding the public benefit of
 10-47 creating the agency in the community;
 10-48 (2) the sustainable funding sources for the agency;
 10-49 (3) the physical resources available to officers,
 10-50 including:
 10-51 (A) all standard duty firearms;
 10-52 (B) less lethal force weapons, including a
 10-53 requirement of at least one per officer on duty;
 10-54 (C) effective communications equipment;
 10-55 (D) protective equipment, including a
 10-56 requirement of:
 10-57 (i) at least one bullet-resistant vest per
 10-58 officer on duty; and
 10-59 (ii) access to at least one breaching tool
 10-60 and one ballistic shield;
 10-61 (E) officer uniforms; and
 10-62 (F) patrol vehicles and associated equipment;
 10-63 (4) the physical facilities of the agency, including
 10-64 any evidence room, dispatch area, or public area;
 10-65 (5) the policies of the agency, including policies on:
 10-66 (A) use of force;
 10-67 (B) vehicle pursuit;
 10-68 (C) professional conduct of officers;
 10-69 (D) domestic abuse protocols;

- 11-1 (E) response to missing persons;
- 11-2 (F) supervision of part-time officers;
- 11-3 (G) impartial policing;
- 11-4 (H) active shooters, including a detailed
- 11-5 written policy based on current best practices for responding to an
- 11-6 active shooter incident at a primary or secondary school facility
- 11-7 and a recommendation for the frequency at which simulated emergency
- 11-8 drills should be conducted; and
- 11-9 (I) barricaded subjects;
- 11-10 (6) the administrative structure of the agency;
- 11-11 (7) liability insurance; and
- 11-12 (8) any other standard the commission considers
- 11-13 necessary.

11-14 (b) A law enforcement agency may enter into a mutual aid

11-15 agreement with a law enforcement agency with overlapping or

11-16 adjacent jurisdiction to share protective equipment during a

11-17 critical incident, as defined by Section 391.0041, Local Government

11-18 Code, to meet the requirements under Subsection (a)(3)(D).

11-19 SECTION 17. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended

11-20 by adding Subsection (u) to read as follows:

11-21 (u) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the

11-22 commission shall require an officer to complete the training

11-23 courses described by Section 1701.273.

11-24 SECTION 18. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code,

11-25 is amended by adding Section 1701.273 to read as follows:

11-26 Sec. 1701.273. TRAINING ON INCIDENT RESPONSE AND COMMAND.

11-27 (a) The commission shall require a peace officer to complete the

11-28 following emergency response management training courses, or a

11-29 substantially similar successor course as determined by the

11-30 commission, in collaboration with the Texas Division of Emergency

11-31 Management:

- 11-32 (1) Introduction to the Incident Command System; and
- 11-33 (2) National Incident Management System, An
- 11-34 Introduction.

11-35 (b) The commission shall require an officer to complete the

11-36 training courses described by Subsection (a) unless the officer has

11-37 completed the training under Section 1701.253(u).

11-38 SECTION 19. Subchapter H, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code,

11-39 is amended by adding Section 1701.3526 to read as follows:

11-40 Sec. 1701.3526. CONTINUING EDUCATION ON INCIDENT RESPONSE

11-41 AND COMMAND. (a) The commission shall require a peace officer whose

11-42 duties involve the supervision of officers in an incident response

11-43 to complete, as part of the continuing education programs under

11-44 Section 1701.351(a), an advanced incident response and command

11-45 course, in collaboration with the Texas Division of Emergency

11-46 Management, as determined by commission rule.

11-47 (b) The exemption under Section 1701.351(d) does not apply

11-48 to the training required by Subsection (a).

11-49 SECTION 20. Section 85.024(b), Local Government Code, is

11-50 repealed.

11-51 SECTION 21. Not later than December 1, 2025, the Advanced

11-52 Law Enforcement Rapid Response Training Center at Texas State

11-53 University--San Marcos shall develop the template and training

11-54 program required by Section 96.42, Education Code, as added by this

11-55 Act.

11-56 SECTION 22. Not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas

11-57 Division of Emergency Management shall develop and post the guide

11-58 required by Section 418.059, Government Code, as added by this Act.

11-59 SECTION 23. Not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas

11-60 Division of Emergency Management shall develop the training program

11-61 required by Section 418.1877(c), Government Code, as added by this

11-62 Act.

11-63 SECTION 24. A public information officer described by

11-64 Section 411.3735 or 418.332, Government Code, as added by this Act,

11-65 who was employed or appointed before the effective date of this Act

11-66 shall obtain the certification required by Section 418.333,

11-67 Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1,

11-68 2026.

11-69 SECTION 25. Not later than January 1, 2026, the Department

12-1 of Public Safety and local law enforcement agencies shall enter
12-2 into mutual aid agreements as required by Section 772.014,
12-3 Government Code, as added by this Act.

12-4 SECTION 26. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12-5 of this Act, each council of governments, as defined by Section
12-6 391.0041, Local Government Code, as added by this Act, shall
12-7 develop a mental health resources plan required to be created under
12-8 that section.

12-9 SECTION 27. As soon as practicable after the effective date
12-10 of this Act, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall adopt
12-11 rules to implement the changes in law made by this Act to
12-12 Subchapters D, F, and H, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code.

12-13 SECTION 28. The minimum curriculum requirements under
12-14 Section 1701.253(u), Occupations Code, as added by this Act, apply
12-15 only to an officer who first begins to satisfy those requirements on
12-16 or after January 1, 2026.

12-17 SECTION 29. Section 1701.3526, Occupations Code, as added
12-18 by this Act, applies only with respect to a 24-month continuing
12-19 education training unit that begins on or after the effective date
12-20 of this Act. A training unit that begins before the effective date
12-21 of this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the training
12-22 unit began, and the former law is continued in effect for that
12-23 purpose.

12-24 SECTION 30. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

12-25 * * * * *