

By: Swanson

H.B. No. 1754

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the placement and use of video cameras in certain self-contained classrooms or other settings providing special education services.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 29.022, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) In order to promote student safety, on receipt of a request by a parent, trustee, governing body member, or staff member that complies with Subsection (a-1), a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall provide equipment, including a video camera, to the [each] school or schools in the district or the [each] charter school campus or campuses specified in the request and in which a student who receives special education services in a self-contained classroom or other special education setting is enrolled. Each school or campus that receives equipment shall place, operate, and maintain one or more video cameras in each self-contained classroom or other special education setting to which the parent's child or the staff member is assigned, if the request was made by a parent or a staff member, and in which a majority of the students in regular attendance are:

(1) provided special education and related services;

and

1 (2) assigned to a self-contained classroom or other
2 special education setting for at least 50 percent of the
3 instructional day.

4 (a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a):

5 (1) a parent may request equipment only for classrooms
6 or special education settings described by Subsection (a) to which
7 the parent's child is assigned;

8 (2) a trustee or governing body member may request
9 equipment only with approval by the board of trustees or governing
10 body; and

11 (3) a staff member may request equipment only for
12 classrooms or special education settings described by Subsection
13 (a) to which the staff member is assigned and only with approval by
14 the board of trustees or governing body.

15 (b) A school or campus that places a video camera in a
16 classroom or other special education setting in accordance with
17 Subsection (a) shall operate and maintain the camera in the
18 classroom or setting, as long as the classroom or setting continues
19 to satisfy the requirements under Subsection (a), for the remainder
20 of the school year in which the school or campus received the
21 request. At the end of each school year, the school or campus must
22 notify the requestor that operation of the video camera will not
23 continue during the following school year unless the school or
24 campus receives a new request authorized under this section for
25 that school year.

26 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.