

SUBJECT: Requiring certain active shooter training providers to be TCOLE-certified

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Bucy, Burns, Clardy, Cole, M. González, Howard, Lalani

0 nays

2 absent — Burrows, Raney

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (April 20) — 30 - 1

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Jones, Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; David Albert, Eli Melendrez, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Denee Barsalou; Susan Burek)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that requiring entities providing active shooter training in schools to be certified by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE) would ensure that these entities use a state-approved curriculum to conduct such trainings and would allow TCOLE to prevent entities that do not meet certain standards from conducting trainings.

DIGEST: SB 999 would prohibit an individual or legal entity from providing active shooter training to students or employees at a public primary or secondary school or an institution of higher education unless the individual providing the instruction was certified to provide the training by the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCOLE). If the training was provided by a legal entity, both the legal entity and the individual providing the instruction on the legal entity's behalf would have to be TCOLE-certified.

The bill would require TCOLE to establish a certification program for providers of active shooter training, including for individuals and legal entities, and to issue a certificate to a provider who met the program's qualifications. TCOLE would be required to adopt rules for the renewal of such a certificate and could require continuing education. TCOLE would have to establish the certification program by September 1, 2024.

The bill would also prohibit a school district or an institution of higher education from contracting for the provision of active shooter training for its students or employees unless the training provider was certified to provide the training.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023, and would apply only to active shooter training provided on or after December 1, 2024.