

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R10691 DRH-F

H.B. 964
By: Cuellar (Zaffirini)
Education
5/7/1999
Engrossed

DIGEST

Currently, only certified peace officers are allowed to direct traffic. Crossing guards can escort individuals across certain streets, but are prohibited from directing traffic. Few school districts are able to hire certified peace officers; however, most districts have crossing guards on staff. H.B. 964 provides that the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education is responsible for defining a school crossing guard training program which includes traffic direction, and specifies that a school crossing guard is not a peace officer and not allowed to carry a weapon while directing traffic.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 964 provides that the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education is responsible for defining a school crossing guard training program, and specifies that a school crossing guard is not a peace officer and not allowed to carry a weapon while directing traffic.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 542.501, Transportation Code, to prohibit disobeying an order of a school crossing guard (guard) who has been trained under Section 600.004 and is directing traffic in a school crossing zone.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 600, Transportation Code, by adding Section 600.004, as follows:

Sec. 600.004. TRAINING OF SCHOOL CROSSING GUARD. Authorizes a local authority to authorize a guard to direct traffic if the guard meets certain training qualifications established by the Commission on Law Enforcement Standards and Education. Specifies that a guard is not a peace officer and not allowed to carry a weapon while directing traffic.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.