



Center for School Behavioral Health Mental Health America of Greater Houston

Everything's Bigger but not Necessarily Better in Texas: Advocating for Transformational School Mental Health Public Policy



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Roadmap



**Overview of the Center for School Behavioral Health
Children's mental health and Texas
Legislative and Policy Engagement 2012-2017
Questions**



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Mission

To improve the

- ✓ **Prevention**
- ✓ **Early identification and intervention**
- ✓ **Treatment**

of behavioral health issues among students.



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Center for School Behavioral Health Mental Health America of Greater Houston

**PROMOTING
CHILDREN'S
BEHAVIORAL HEALTH
THROUGH SYSTEMS CHANGE**

School
Behavioral
Health
Collaborative

School
District
Learning
Community

Best
Practices
Incubator

Stigma
Reduction
Initiative

Annual
Conference

Advocacy
& Policy
Analysis



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SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Texas, our Texas



- Texas is home to more than 7 million children live in Texas, representing nearly 1 in 10 children living in the U.S.
- Fifty percent of Texas kids are Hispanic/ Latino, 33 percent White, 11 percent Black, and 6 percent Asian, multiracial or some other race.





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Texas, our Texas



- Texas ranks 41st in child well-being
- Texas ranks 49th in per capita spending for mental health.
- In 2011, the state legislature cut public education funding by 5.3 billion dollars



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Texas, our Texas



- In Texas, 600,000 children, youth, and their families experience behavioral health needs before the age of 18 .
- Only 26% receive treatment.
- The largest provider of mental health services for youth in the greater Houston area is Juvenile Probation. Fully 71% of all youth referred to the system have an identifiable mental health diagnosis.
- Between 1999 and 2009, 9 out of 10 students classified as having an emotional disturbance in a Texas public school were suspended or expelled from school for discretionary reasons.



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Texas, our Texas



- In the Houston Independent School District, where almost 90% of the students are minority and 75% economically disadvantaged, there are 1,175 students for every counselor.
- Meanwhile, the Texas district has one security staffer for every 785 students.



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But that's not the worst of it . . .

A recent investigative report by the Houston Chronicle (October, 2016) determined that in 2004, the Texas Education Agency (TEA) instituted an artificial 8.5% cap for special education identification, resulting in the denial of services to thousands of students experiencing mental health concerns over the past 12 years.





There is good news, too!

Senate Bill 460

SB 460 (Sen. Deuell/Rep. Coleman) requires that:

- Individuals in educator **preparation** programs receive training in the detection of students with mental or emotional disorders in order to receive their teaching certificate
- School districts to provide mental health training for **current** junior high & high school teachers, counselors, principals & other appropriate administrators; to the extent funds and programs are available, requires school districts to provide mental health training to elementary school teachers, counselors, principals & other appropriate administrators
- Local school health advisory committees make recommendations regarding policies, procedures, strategies, & curriculum to prevent mental health concerns among students



Identifying Mental Illness in an Educational Setting

Texas SB460 MENTAL HEALTH TRAINING FOR EDUCATORS

www.sb460training.org

HOME MANDATED MODULE PANEL MEMBERS SCHOOL COMMUNITY FAMILY RESOURCES CONTACTS



DYNAMIC MENTAL HEALTH INTERVENTION

Helping teachers recognize symptoms of common mental health disorders, apply effective strategies in the classroom, and assist families in obtaining mental health services for troubled students.

COMMUNITY >

FAMILY >

SCHOOL >



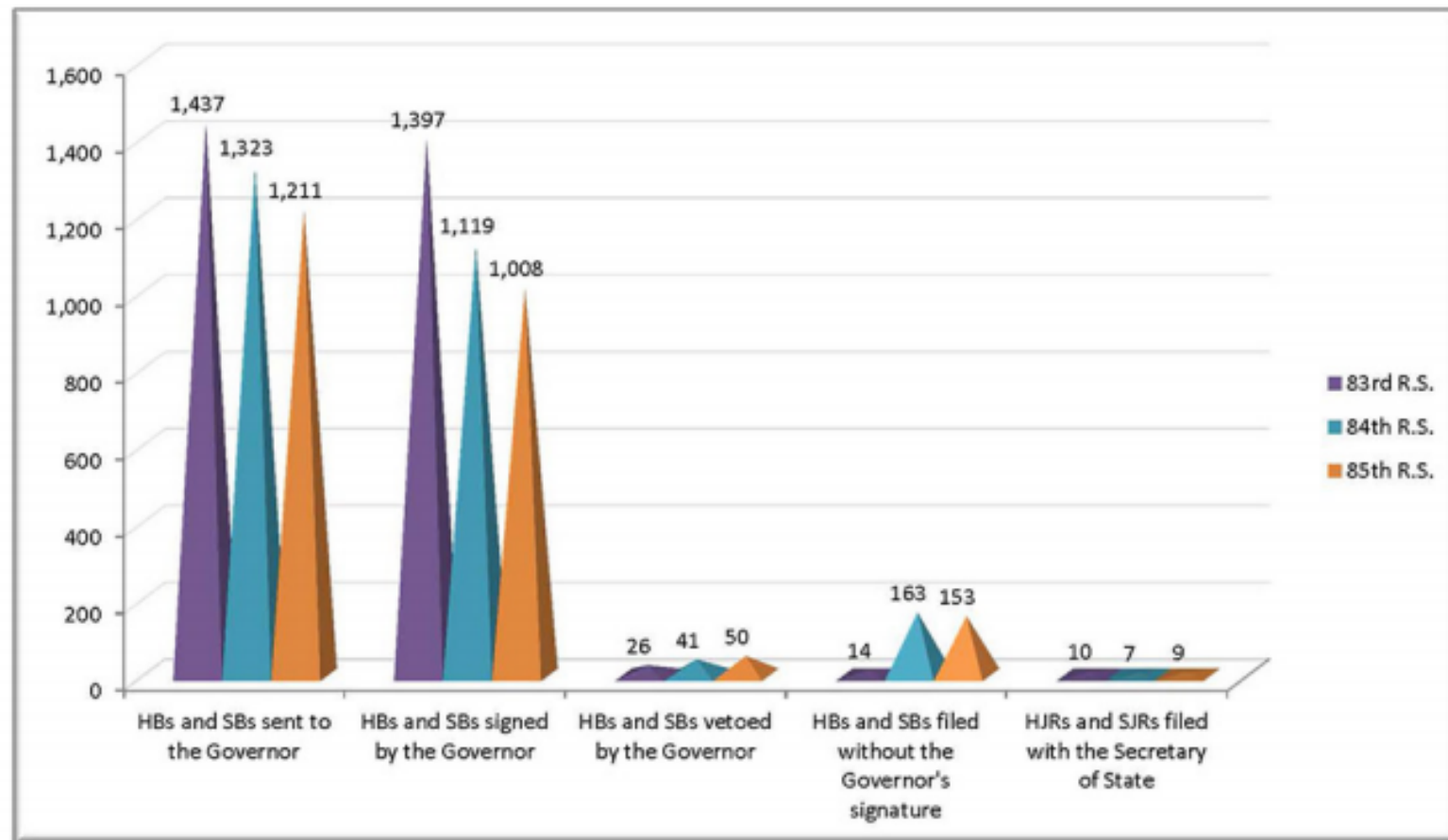


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Previous Legislative Sessions

83rd Legislative Session: January 8, 2013 - May 27, 2013

84th Legislative Session: January 13, 2015 - June 1, 2015



Source: <http://www.lrl.state.tx.us/whatsNew/client/index.cfm/Legislative-process>



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Texas 85th Regular Session

January 10, 2017 - May 29, 2017

Leadership:

Governor: Greg Abbott (R)

Lieutenant Governor: Dan Patrick (R)

Speaker of the House: Joe Straus (R – San Antonio)

Bill Statistics for the 85th Legislature

Status	HB	HCR	HJR	HR	SB	SCR	SJR	SR	Total HB & SB	Total
Filed	4333	138	111	2707	2298	64	58	963	6631	10672
Passed	700	68	3	2682	511	29	6	961	1211	4960
Vetoed	36	0	0	0	15	0	0	0	51	<u>51</u>

18.26% of all bills filed were related to mental health



Final Budget

SB 1 includes:

– 2018-2019: \$217 billion

- Total General Revenue spending: **\$107.8 billion** — approximately the same amount as the 2016-2017 budget (\$108 billion). This fell within the parameters of the Controller’s BRE.
- The final deal:
 - Defers \$1.8 billion of Prop 7 funds until FY 2020 – **allowing \$1.8 billion to be counted as General Revenue available in 2018-2019.**
 - Draws down less than \$1 billion from the \$10 billion Rainy Day Fund to be used almost entirely for state facilities repairs, construction and equipment purchases.

- Behavioral Health Funding:

\$160 million added for various community-based services and projects

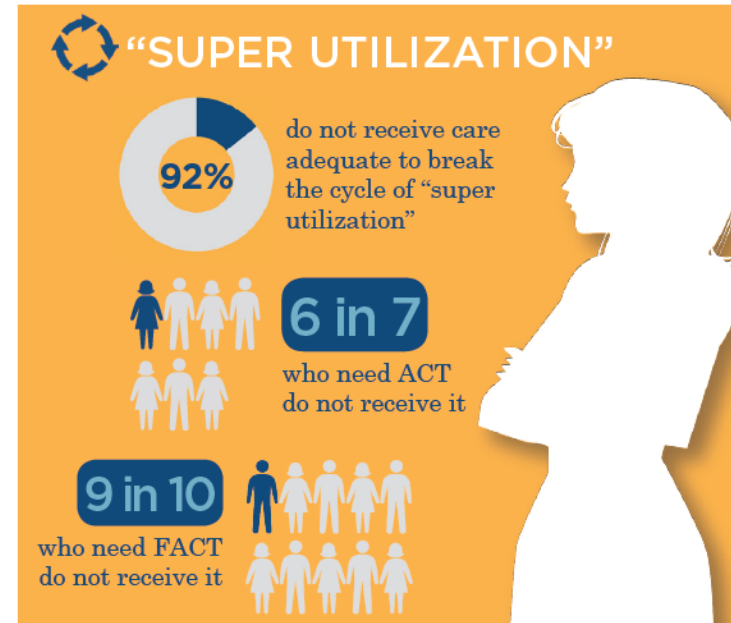
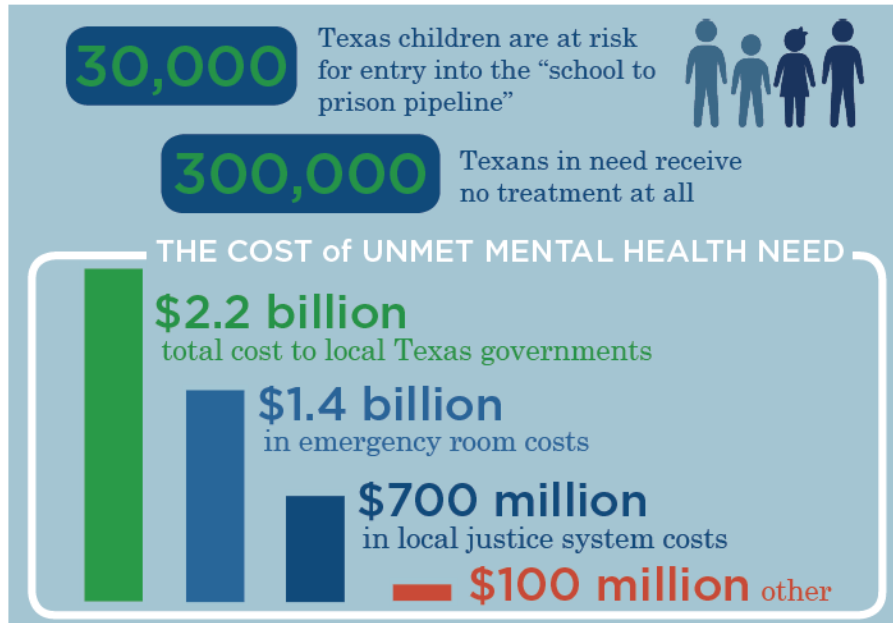
\$35 million increase approved for state hospital operations, and

\$300 million from the Rainy Day Fund to be used for state hospital repairs and construction -- “HHSC shall develop a comprehensive inpatient mental health plan for the replacement or significant repair of state hospitals or other state-funded inpatient mental health facilities to expand inpatient mental health capacity over the next three biennia.”



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Local Burden of Unmet Mental Health Needs on Texas Counties



Jail Costs for Individuals with Mental Illness	\$461 million
Juvenile Justice Costs for Youth with Serious Emotional Disturbances	\$236 million
Psychiatric Emergency Department Costs	\$965 million
Alcohol and Substance Abuse Emergency Department Costs	\$457 million
Other Costs (e.g. shelter services to homeless individuals and school district costs)	\$100 million
Total Costs to Local Governments	\$2.2 billion



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House Select Committee on Mental Health

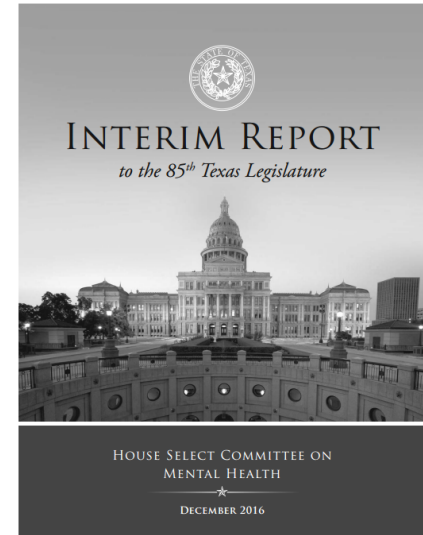
Speaker Joe Straus appointed the Select Committee in November 2015

Members:

- Representative Four Price (R-Amarillo), Committee Chair
- Representative Joe Moody (D-El Paso), Vice Chair
- Representative Greg Bonnen (R-Friendswood)
- Representative Garnet Coleman (D-Houston)
- Representative Sarah Davis (R-Houston)
- Representative Rick Galindo (R-San Antonio)
- Representative Sergio Munoz (D-Palmview)
- Representative Andy Murr (R-Junction)
- Representative Toni Rose (D-Dallas)
- Representative Kenneth Sheets (R-Dallas)
- Representative Senfronia Thompson (D-Houston)
- Representative Chris Turner (D-Grand Prairie)
- Representative James White (R-Hillister)

The Select Committee led 8 public hearings:

- Mental Health Overview (1)
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Treatments For Children (2)
- Mental and Behavioral Health Services and Treatment Access, Continuity of Care, Coordination, and Workforce (3,4)
- Insurance Coverage and Parity and Law Enforcement (5)
- Substance Abuse, Homelessness, and Veterans (6)
- Public Testimony (7)
- State Hospitals, Options for Addressing Needs, and Mental Health Care on Campuses of Higher Education (8)



[Link to the Report](#)



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House Select Committee on Mental Health: Opportunities to Solve Existing Service Gaps

- Prioritizing early intervention and prevention measures – especially among school age children
- Expanding innovative public school-based programs
- Sustainability of the 1115 Transformation Waiver / DSRIP funded programs
- Expanding bed capacity by expanding step-down beds to provide a continuum of care
 - Part of this is expanding jail diversion programs for nonviolent offenders
- Continuing to address mental health workforce shortages through educational incentives and by expanding the availability and utilization of technology, such as telemedicine
 - Truly integrating healthcare to treat the whole person- physically & mentally
 - Rep. Four Price (R- Amarillo) understands issues related to IHC. Questions remain among the committee surrounding the implementation.



House Select Committee on Mental Health: Impact

- Increased focus on a prevention model of care

- A more strategic and holistic approach to Mental Health and Behavioral Health funding

- Engaged group of advocates with the House, increasing Mental Health and Behavioral Health focused bills filed

Mental Health & Substance Abuse (I0019)

Status	HB	SB	Total
Filed	122	67	189
Passed	16	17	33
Vetoed	0	1	1

Source: <http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/Home.aspx>



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CSBH: Legislative Priorities

- Amend SB 460 to:
- Provide accountability measures to reinforce the training mandate through reporting through TEA
- Require all school personnel to receive training in how to recognize and appropriately respond to signs of trauma
- Make available at least one licensed behavioral health professional on each campus, as funding allows
- Require a transition plan for students returning from prolonged placement in out-of-school facilities, including disciplinary programs and residential treatment facilities



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Advocacy Task Force

Legislative Outreach:

- 19 emails to Advocacy Task Forces
- 6 grassroots advocacy trainings
- Pizza & Politics: 325+ calls made in 2 hours

Great news from Austin!

Last Friday, March 10 marked the deadline to file legislation for Texas' 85th legislative session. Mental Health America of Greater Houston is excited to report on the progress of our priorities.

I am excited to share that MHA of Greater Houston has successfully filed four bills, supporting both our Center for School Behavioral Health and Women's Mental Health programs. We have also worked closely with Chairman Four Price and Representative Sarah Davis to ensure specific language reflecting our priorities was inserted into their existing bills concerning these legislative issues. We are proud of both the final bills resulting from these ongoing conversations and of the influence MHA of Greater Houston demonstrated during a critical moment when competing political priorities can too often sink impactful legislation.

Now that our bills have been filed, the next step is getting them through their respective committees. (More great news: HB 2135, our Post-Partum Depression bill, and HB 11, Chairman Four Price's children's mental health bill, have already been referred to the House committee on Public Health! Representative Davis' bill should be referred any day!)

After meeting with many members of the Houston delegation, we believe that our legislative agenda is strong; however, the current fiscal outlook and political climate in Austin make the passage of any bill a very difficult task. We have our work cut out for us during the next 73 days.

MHA OF GREATER HOUSTON'S LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Bill Number	Sponsor	Title	Status	Focus Area
HB 2623	Allen	Relating to requiring school districts to assist students in making the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements outside of school.	03/01/2017 H Filed	Center for School Behavioral Health
HB 3853	Coleman	Relating to the availability of certain behavioral health professionals at certain public schools.	03/10/2017 H Filed	Center for School Behavioral Health
HB 3887	Coleman	Relating to trauma training for public school personnel.	03/10/2017 H Filed	Center for School Behavioral Health
HB 2135	Coleman Farrar	Relating to coverage for certain services and the provision of certain information relating to postpartum depression under the medical assistance and CHIP perinatal programs	03/13/2017 H Referred to Public Health: Mar 13 2017 4:11PM	Women's Mental Health

*Sun



URGENT ACTION ALERT

Friends,

At 9:00 a.m. on Thursday, [House Bill 2623](#) (Allen, Alma | Thompson, Senfronia) and [House Bill 3887](#) (Coleman) will be heard before the Senate Education Committee - because of you.

Your calls, your emails to friends, your commitment to advancing legislation for youth mental health. You made this happen. And you can't stop now. We've come too far. Together.

Each member of the Senate Education Committee needs to know how important these bills are to Texas students and that, when I stand before them to testify tomorrow, I have all of you standing beside me.

We have eight days left to pass these bills.

Please take five minutes to call your [State Senator](#) and the Senate Education Committee to let them know you support our Senate sponsor, Senator Zaffirini, and House Bill 2623 (Transition Services) and House Bill 3887 (Trauma Training). Ask them to vote yes on both bills and send them to the Senate floor for a vote.

With gratitude,

Annalee Guiley



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Advocacy Task Force Conference Call

Please join us on Thursday, March 23rd from 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm for our monthly Advocacy Task Force meeting. We will update Task Force members on bill progress and discuss next steps. To call in, dial [866-423-8755](tel:866-423-8755) and enter the code [457809](#) when prompted. We look forward to talking with you Thursday!

BREAKING NEWS: HB 2623 (Allen) HAS BEEN REFERRED TO COMMITTEE!

We are thrilled to announce that HB 2623 (Allen), relating to requiring school districts to assist students in making the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements outside of school, has been referred to the House Public Education Committee!

The Public Education committee is chaired by Houston State Representative Dan Huberty and includes Houston-area Representatives Alma Allen, Harold Dutton, Jr., and Representative Dayane Bohac.

Please call your Houston Representatives on the Public Education Committee and ask that they set a hearing date for this bill. The more support they hear, the better our chance at getting a hearing scheduled as soon as possible.

State Representative Dan Huberty (512) 463-0520
State Representative Alma Allen (512) 463-0744
State Representative Harold Dutton, Jr. (512) 463-0510
State Representative Dayane Bohac (512) 463-0727

We ask that you take **ten minutes** of your day to call the four Representatives from Houston on the Public Education committee and then ask two of your friends to do the same. We will share this information on our Facebook page as well for you to share with your networks.

Here is a sample script to use for your calls:

Hello, my name is _____, I am calling Representative _____ because I want to make sure that House Bill 2623 (Allen) gets a hearing **scheduled** in the **PUBLIC EDUCATION COMMITTEE**. I support this bill and the positive impact it will have on mental health in education in the state of Texas and encourage Representative _____ to do so as well. Thank you very much!

While we still need support for HB 3853 and HB 3887, we will focus the Advocacy Task Force's attention on scheduling a hearing for HB 2623 until they are referred to a committee.

THANK YOU!

P.S. While you're making calls, call your local State Representative to express support for House Bill 2623 (Allen), as well! While your local Representative may not be a member of House Public Education, his or her support for House Bill 2623 is important! As a constituent, your opinion matters! Ask them to use their influence with their colleagues on the Public Education Committee to make sure House Bill 2623 (Allen) gets a hearing! Better yet, ask them to "joint Author" the bill! To find your Representative, click here: <http://www.house.state.tx.us/members/find-your-representative/>

HAVE ANY FUN STORIES FROM YOUR CALLS? TAKE ANY GREAT PICTURES OF YOU OR YOUR FRIENDS TALKING TO LEGISLATIVE OFFICES? SHARE THEM WITH US ON OUR FACEBOOK PAGE WITH THE HASHTAG #HB2623 #TXLGE



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Center for School Behavioral Health Legislation

House Bill 3853

- Author: Coleman
- Relating to the availability of certain behavioral health professionals at certain public schools.

Support list:

National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas School Alliance, Disability Rights Texas, Children's Defense Fund-Texas, NATIONAL ALLIANCE on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas, Texas American Federation of Teachers, Texas Council of Community Centers, Mayor's Office, City of Houston, Methodist Healthcare Ministries of South Texas, Inc., Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Texans Care for Children, Children at Risk, Easter Seals, Communities for Recovery, United Ways of Texas, Texas PTA, Texas Psychological Association, Association of Texas Professional Educators, Texas Classroom Teachers Association.

Actions: (descending date order)

	Description	Comment	Date ▼
H	Left pending in committee		05/02/2017
H	Testimony taken/registration(s) recorded in committee		05/02/2017
H	Committee substitute considered in committee		05/02/2017
H	Considered in public hearing		05/02/2017
H	Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		05/02/2017
H	Referred to Public Education		03/30/2017
H	Read first time		03/30/2017
H	Filed		03/10/2017



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Center for School Behavioral Health Legislation

House Bill 3887

- Author: Coleman
- Sponsor: Zaffirini
- Relating to trauma training for public school personnel.

Support list:

University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, Texas Counseling Association, Texas PTA, Texas Counseling Association, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, National Association of Social Workers - Texas Chapter, NATIONAL Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Texas, Association of Substance Abuse Programs, Mayor's Office, City of Houston, American Federation of Teachers, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Texans Care for Children, Texas Suicide Prevention Council, United Ways of Texas

House Local, Consent, and Resolutions Third Reading Vote:

- Biedermann, Leach, Phillips, Rinaldi, Schaefer, Tinderholt, and Zedler

Senate Education Committee Vote:

- Bettencourt, Campbell, Huffines, Hughes

Actions: (descending date order)

Viewing Votes: [Most Recent House Vote](#)

	Description	Comment	Date
S	Left pending in committee		05/19/2017
S	Considered in public hearing		05/19/2017
S	Left pending in committee		05/18/2017
S	Testimony taken in committee		05/18/2017
S	Considered in public hearing		05/18/2017
S	Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		05/18/2017
S	Referred to Education		05/12/2017
S	Read first time		05/12/2017
S	Received from the House		05/10/2017
H	Reported engrossed		05/09/2017
H	Nonrecord vote recorded in Journal		05/09/2017
H	Record vote	RV#1049	05/09/2017
H	Passed		05/09/2017
H	Read 3rd time		05/09/2017
H	Nonrecord vote recorded in Journal		05/09/2017
H	Passed to engrossment		05/09/2017
H	Read 2nd time		05/09/2017
H	Placed on Local, Consent, and Res. Calendar		05/09/2017
H	Considered in Local & Consent Calendars		05/08/2017
H	Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar		05/03/2017
H	Committee report distributed		05/03/2017
H	Comte report filed with Committee Coordinator		05/02/2017
H	Reported favorably as substituted		04/27/2017
H	Recommended to be sent to Local & Consent		04/27/2017
H	Committee substitute considered in committee		04/27/2017
H	Considered in public hearing		04/27/2017
H	Left pending in committee		04/18/2017
H	Testimony taken/registration(s) recorded in committee		04/18/2017
H	Committee substitute considered in committee		04/18/2017
H	Considered in public hearing		04/18/2017
H	Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		04/18/2017
H	Referred to Public Education		03/31/2017
H	Read first time		03/31/2017
H	Filed		03/10/2017



CENTER FOR MENTAL HEALTH AMERICA
OF GREATER HOUSTON
SCHOOL BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Center for School Behavioral Health Legislation

House Bill 2623

- Author: Allen | Thompson, Senfronia
- Sponsor: Zaffirini
- Relating to requiring school districts and certain facilities to assist students in making the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements outside of school.

Support list:

Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Disability Rights Texas, Texas NAACP, One Voice Texas, Texas State Teachers Association, Texas Appleseed, Texas CASA, Coalition of Human Rights Policy Advocates, Texas Counseling Association, Texas Association of School Boards, Houston ISD, Association of Substance Abuse Programs, Mayor's Office, City of Houston, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Texas Association for the Protection of Children, Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Children at Risk, Texans Care for Children, ACLU of Texas, Communities for Recovery, United Ways of Texas, Texas PTA, Association of Texas Professional Educators.

House Local, Consent, and Resolutions Third Reading Vote:

- Biedermann, G. Bonnen, Burrows, Fallon, Goldman, Parker Simmons, Springer, Swanson and Tinderholt

Senate Education Committee Vote:

- Bettencourt, Campbell, Huffines, Hughes

Actions: (descending date order)

Viewing Votes: [Most Recent House Vote](#)

Description	Comment	Date
S Left pending in committee		05/19/2017
S Considered in public hearing		05/19/2017
S Left pending in committee		05/18/2017
S Testimony taken in committee		05/18/2017
S Considered in public hearing		05/18/2017
S Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		05/18/2017
S Referred to Education		05/12/2017
S Read first time		05/12/2017
S Received from the House		05/10/2017
H Reported engrossed		05/09/2017
H Nonrecord vote recorded in Journal		05/09/2017
H Record vote	RV#1049	05/09/2017
H Passed		05/09/2017
H Read 3rd time		05/09/2017
H Nonrecord vote recorded in Journal		05/09/2017
H Passed to engrossment		05/09/2017
H Read 2nd time		05/09/2017
H Placed on Local, Consent, and Res. Calendar		05/09/2017
H Considered in Local & Consent Calendars		05/08/2017
H Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar		05/03/2017
H Committee report distributed		05/02/2017
H Comite report filed with Committee Coordinator		05/02/2017
H Reported favorably as substituted		04/18/2017
H Recommended to be sent to Local & Consent		04/18/2017
H Committee substitute considered in committee		04/18/2017
H Considered in public hearing		04/18/2017
H Left pending in committee		04/04/2017
H Testimony taken/registration(s) recorded in committee		04/04/2017
H Committee substitute considered in committee		04/04/2017
H Considered in public hearing		04/04/2017
H Scheduled for public hearing on . . .		04/04/2017
H Referred to Public Education		03/21/2017
H Read first time		03/21/2017
H Filed		03/01/2017



Lessons Learned: Avoiding Pitfalls

- **Direct engagement of the State House of Representatives regarding MH / BH landscape**
- **Strategic messaging and funding solutions to securing and maintaining funding during an economic downturn**
- **Recognition of the dynamic of House versus Senate**
- **Ongoing efforts to combat existing Senate views on Mental Health legislation as an unfunded mandate**



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Your thoughts:
What would it take to get our legislative
priorities passed in 2019?



Houston