



# House Bill 3 and Its Impact on Students with Disabilities

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1

## About Disability Rights Texas

- Part of the national Protection and Advocacy (P&A) System
- Established in 1977 through federal law
- Nonprofit legal firm
- Protect and advocate for the rights of Texans with disabilities ensuring their equal participation in society
- Serve Texans of all ages with a wide variety of disabilities



2

# Services Offered

- Provide direct legal assistance to people with disabilities whose rights are threatened or violated
- Protect rights of individuals and groups of people with disabilities through courts and justice system
- Inform policy makers about how issues impact people with disabilities
- Educate people with disabilities and family members about their rights
- Make referrals to programs and services

# Agenda

- House Bill 3
  - Its Impact on students with disabilities
  - Proactive steps
- Related bills
  - Senate Bill 133
  - House Bill 473

# House Bill 3

- By Representative Burrows.
- Passed in regular 88<sup>th</sup> legislative session and became effective on September 1, 2023.
- The goal is to improve the physical security and safety of public schools and charter schools.

# Armed Security Guard

- At least one armed security officer at every campus during school hours.
- If schools cannot hire a separate officer, then someone else already on campus must act as a security officer.
- If not commissioned peace officer, then cannot perform law enforcement duties, like making arrests. **But there is an exception allowing them to if there is an emergency that poses a threat of death or serious bodily injury to a person.**

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