

By: Patterson

H.B. No. 604

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the scheduling of the first day of school for students by school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12A.003(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A local innovation plan must:

(1) provide for a comprehensive educational program for the district, which ~~program~~ may include:

(A) innovative curriculum, instructional methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus governance, and parental involvement;

(B) except as provided by Section 12A.004(a), modifications to the school day or year;

(C) provisions regarding the district budget and sustainable program funding;

(D) accountability and assessment measures that exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and

(E) any other innovations prescribed by the board of trustees; and

(2) identify requirements imposed by this code that inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be exempted on adoption of the plan, subject to Section 12A.004.

SECTION 2. Section 12A.004(a), Education Code, is amended

1 to read as follows:

2 (a) A local innovation plan may not provide for the  
3 exemption of a district designated as a district of innovation from  
4 the following provisions of this title:

5 (1) a state or federal requirement applicable to an  
6 open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D,  
7 Chapter 12;

8 (2) Subchapters A, C, D, and E, Chapter 11, except that  
9 a district may be exempt from Sections 11.1511(b)(5) and (14) and  
10 Section 11.162;

11 (3) state curriculum and graduation requirements  
12 adopted under Chapter 28; ~~and~~

13 (4) academic and financial accountability and  
14 sanctions under Chapters 39 and 39A; and

15 (5) the first day of instruction requirements under  
16 Section 25.0811.

17 SECTION 3. Section 25.0811(a), Education Code, is amended  
18 to read as follows:

19 (a) Except as provided by this section, a school district  
20 may not begin instruction for students for a school year before the  
21 first ~~[fourth]~~ Monday in September ~~[August]~~. A school district may:

22 (1) begin instruction for students for a school year  
23 before the first ~~[fourth]~~ Monday in September ~~[August]~~ if the  
24 district operates a year-round system under Section 25.084; or

25 (2) begin instruction for students for a school year  
26 on or after the third ~~[first]~~ Monday in August at a campus or at not  
27 more than 20 percent of the campuses in the district if:

1 (A) the district has a student enrollment of  
2 190,000 or more;

3 (B) the district at the beginning of the school  
4 year provides, financed with local funds, days of instruction for  
5 students at the campus or at each of the multiple campuses, in  
6 addition to the minimum instructional time [~~number of days of~~  
7 ~~instruction~~] required under Section 25.081;

8 (C) the campus or each of the multiple campuses  
9 is [~~are~~] undergoing comprehensive reform, as determined by the  
10 board of trustees of the district; and

11 (D) a majority of the students at the campus or at  
12 each of the multiple campuses are educationally disadvantaged.

13 SECTION 4. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of  
14 this section, this Act applies beginning with the 2026-2027 school  
15 year.

16 (b) Sections 12A.003 and 12A.004, Education Code, as  
17 amended by this Act, apply only to a local innovation plan adopted  
18 or renewed on or after the effective date of this Act. A local  
19 innovation plan adopted or renewed before the effective date of  
20 this Act is governed by the law in effect on the date the plan was  
21 adopted or renewed, and the former law is continued in effect for  
22 that purpose.

23 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.