

By: Smith of Tarrant

H.B. No. 304

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state assessment of public school students in science in the eighth grade.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess essential knowledge and skills in reading, writing, mathematics, social studies, and science. All students, except students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1) or exempted under Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

(1) mathematics, annually in grades three through seven without the aid of technology and in grades eight through 11 with the aid of technology on any assessment instruments that include algebra;

(2) reading, annually in grades three through nine;

(3) writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades four and seven;

(4) English language arts, in grade 10;

(5) social studies, in grades eight and 10; and

(6) science, in grades five, eight, and 10.

SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall adopt rules for the implementation of Section 39.023(a)(6), Education Code, as

1 amended by this Act. The commissioner's rules must provide that:

2 (1) except as provided by Subdivision (3) of this
3 section, not later than the 2006-2007 school year, the State Board
4 of Education shall administer a science assessment instrument to
5 students in the eighth grade as provided by Section 39.023(a)(6),
6 Education Code, as amended by this Act;

7 (2) except as provided by Subdivision (4) of this
8 section, not later than the 2008-2009 school year, the Texas
9 Education Agency shall include the results of student performance
10 on the eighth grade science assessment instrument required by
11 Section 39.023(a)(6), Education Code, as amended by this Act, in
12 evaluating the performance of school districts, campuses, and
13 open-enrollment charter schools under Subchapter D, Chapter 39,
14 Education Code;

15 (3) not later than the 2008-2009 school year, the
16 State Board of Education shall administer an assessment instrument
17 under Section 39.023(b), Education Code, that corresponds to the
18 eighth grade science assessment instrument required by Section
19 39.023(a)(6), Education Code, as amended by this Act; and

20 (4) not later than the 2010-2011 school year, the
21 Texas Education Agency shall include the results of student
22 performance on the assessment instrument described by Subdivision
23 (3) of this section in evaluating the performance of school
24 districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter schools under
25 Subchapter D, Chapter 39, Education Code.

26 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.