

By: Howard

H.B. No. 1915

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reading curriculum used in public schools and to reading textbooks for public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1) The essential knowledge and skills of English language arts must include reading. The reading curriculum, based on scientifically based reading research, must be grade specific and increase in depth and complexity from one school year to the next, focus on core knowledge, and include essential components of reading instruction and instruction to promote reading. In this subsection, "essential components of reading instruction," "reading," and "scientifically based reading research" have the meanings assigned by Section 1208, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6368), and its subsequent amendments.

SECTION 2. Section 31.023, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of Education shall adopt two lists of textbooks. The conforming list includes each textbook submitted for the subject and grade level that meets applicable physical specifications adopted by the State Board of Education, ~~and~~ contains material covering each element

1 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level
2 as determined by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002
3 presented in an educationally effective manner as proven by
4 scientifically based research, and is adopted under Section 31.024.
5 The nonconforming list includes each textbook submitted for the
6 subject and grade level that:

7 (1) meets applicable physical specifications adopted
8 by the State Board of Education;

9 (2) contains material covering at least half, but not
10 all, of the elements of the essential knowledge and skills of the
11 subject and grade level presented in an educationally effective
12 manner as proven by scientifically based research; and

13 (3) is adopted under Section 31.024.

14 (a-1) In addition to the requirements of Subsection (a), to
15 be placed on the conforming or nonconforming list, a reading
16 textbook must include essential components of reading instruction
17 and instruction to promote reading, as defined by Section 1208, No
18 Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6368), and its
19 subsequent amendments, and reflect an increase in depth and
20 complexity from one school year to the next.

21 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the textbook review and adoption
22 requirements under Section 31.022, Education Code, or the textbook
23 review and adoption cycle the State Board of Education adopts under
24 that section, the board shall review and adopt reading textbooks
25 that satisfy requirements under Section 31.023, Education Code, as
26 amended by this Act, as soon as practicable.

27 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act apply beginning with

1 the 2003-2004 school year.

2 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.