

By: Gutierrez

H.B. No. 2710

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to restricting written reports required of public school classroom teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.413 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.413. RESTRICTING WRITTEN REPORTS. (a) The board of trustees of each school district shall adopt a policy to limit redundant requests for information and the number and length of written reports that a classroom teacher is required to prepare. Except as provided by Subsection (b), a classroom teacher may not be required to prepare a written report other than:

(1) a report of a student's grade on a particular assignment or examination;

(2) a report of a student's grades at the end of a grade reporting period;

(3) a textbook report;

(4) a unit or weekly lesson plan report that outlines, in a brief and general manner, the information to be presented during each period at the secondary level or in each subject or topic at the elementary level;

(5) an attendance report;

(6) a report required for accreditation review;

(7) any other report specifically required by law or

1 State Board of Education or commissioner rule to be prepared by a
2 classroom teacher; or

3 (8) any other report directly related to the
4 professional duties of a classroom teacher.

5 (b) If information is required under federal or state law,
6 regulation, or rule and the only reasonable manner in which to
7 collect the information is with the direct involvement of a
8 classroom teacher, the teacher may be required to provide the
9 information.

10 (c) The board of trustees shall review paperwork
11 requirements imposed on classroom teachers and shall transfer to
12 existing noninstructional staff a reporting task that can
13 reasonably be accomplished by that staff.

14 (d) This section does not preclude a school district from
15 collecting essential information, in addition to information
16 specified under Subsection (a) or (b), from a classroom teacher if:

17 (1) participation is entirely at the discretion of the
18 teacher and the school district does not directly or indirectly
19 coerce the teacher to participate; and

20 (2) the decision not to participate is not held
21 against the teacher.

22 (e) The commissioner or the State Board of Education may not
23 by rule require a school district employee, including a classroom
24 teacher, to prepare a report unless:

25 (1) the report is explicitly required by the rule; and

26 (2) a statement is included with the notice required
27 under Section 2001.024, Government Code, that describes the form

1 and content of the required report.

2 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
3 school year.

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