

By: Howard

H.B. No. 221

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 221:

By: Eissler

C.S.H.B. No. 221

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the reading curriculum used in public schools and to
3 reading textbooks for public school students.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.002(c), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (c) The State Board of Education, with the direct
8 participation of educators, parents, business and industry
9 representatives, and employers shall by rule identify the essential
10 knowledge and skills of each subject of the required curriculum
11 that all students should be able to demonstrate and that will be
12 used in evaluating textbooks under Chapter 31 and addressed on the
13 assessment instruments required under Subchapter B, Chapter 39.
14 Reading must be included among the essential knowledge and skills
15 of English language arts for grades one through eight. The reading
16 curriculum must be grade specific and increase in depth and
17 complexity from one school year to the next, focus on core
18 knowledge, and include phonemic awareness and systematic, explicit
19 phonics and spelling knowledge and skills. As a condition of
20 accreditation, the board shall require each district to provide
21 instruction in the essential knowledge and skills at appropriate
22 grade levels.

23 SECTION 2. Section 31.023(a), Education Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

1 (a) For each subject and grade level, the State Board of
2 Education shall adopt two lists of textbooks. The conforming list
3 includes each textbook submitted for the subject and grade level
4 that meets applicable physical specifications adopted by the State
5 Board of Education, ~~and~~ contains material covering each element
6 of the essential knowledge and skills of the subject and grade level
7 as determined by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002
8 presented in an educationally effective manner, and is adopted
9 under Section 31.024. To be placed on the conforming list, a
10 reading textbook for grade one or above through grade eight must
11 address phonemic awareness and must contain systematic, explicit
12 phonics and spelling instruction that increases in depth and
13 complexity from one school year to the next. The nonconforming list
14 includes each textbook submitted for the subject and grade level
15 that:

16 (1) meets applicable physical specifications adopted
17 by the State Board of Education;

18 (2) contains material covering at least half, but not
19 all, of the elements of the essential knowledge and skills of the
20 subject and grade level presented in an educationally effective
21 manner; ~~and~~

22 (3) is adopted under Section 31.024; and

23 (4) contains systematic, explicit phonics and
24 spelling instruction that increases in depth and complexity from
25 one school year to the next, in the case of a reading textbook for
26 grade one or above through grade eight.

27 SECTION 3. Notwithstanding the textbook review and adoption

1 requirements under Section 31.022, Education Code, or the textbook
2 review and adoption cycle the State Board of Education adopts under
3 that section, the board shall review and adopt reading textbooks
4 for grades one through eight that satisfy requirements under
5 Section 31.023, Education Code, as amended by this Act, as soon as
6 practicable after the effective date of this Act.

7 SECTION 4. Sections 1 and 2 of this Act apply beginning with
8 the 2005-2006 school year.

9 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
13 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.