

By: Hamilton

H.B. No. 1016

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to reducing certain burdens imposed on classroom teachers
3 and other school district employees.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 7, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 7.060 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 7.060. REDUCING PAPERWORK. (a) The commissioner
8 shall annually review and, to the greatest extent practicable,
9 reduce written reports and other paperwork required of a school
10 district by the agency.

11 (b) The commissioner shall adopt a policy that limits
12 written reports and other paperwork that a principal or classroom
13 teacher may be required to complete.

14 SECTION 2. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is
15 amended by adding Section 21.4011 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 21.4011. MAXIMUM WORKDAY; MEETINGS. (a) A workday for
17 a classroom teacher may not be more than 30 minutes longer than the
18 instructional day.

19 (b) Except in the case of an emergency, a classroom teacher
20 must be given at least 24 hours' notice of any meeting that is held
21 outside of the teacher's regular workday as provided under
22 Subsection (a). The commissioner by rule shall define an emergency
23 for purposes of this subsection.

24 (c) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a

1 classroom teacher may not be required to attend more than one
2 meeting each week that is held outside of the teacher's regular
3 workday as provided under Subsection (a).

4 SECTION 3. Section 21.404, Education Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 Sec. 21.404. PLANNING AND PREPARATION TIME. (a) Each
7 classroom teacher is entitled to at least 450 minutes within each
8 two-week period for instructional preparation, including
9 parent-teacher conferences, evaluating students' work, and
10 planning. A planning and preparation period under this section may
11 not be less than 45 minutes within the instructional day. During a
12 planning and preparation period, a classroom teacher may not be
13 required to participate in any other activity.

14 (b) Each school district shall schedule at least one
15 two-hour period each month during the regular workday for teachers
16 to plan and collaborate with other teachers who teach the same
17 subject or grade level.

18 (c) To allow teachers additional preparation and planning
19 time, each school district and school shall establish a volunteer
20 program under which volunteers perform most routine nonteaching
21 duties, including performing clerical duties, monitoring students
22 in the cafeteria, and performing routine before-school and
23 after-school duties such as monitoring students at bus stops.

24 SECTION 4. Section 39.075(a), Education Code, is amended to
25 read as follows:

26 (a) The commissioner shall authorize special accreditation
27 investigations to be conducted:

1 (1) when excessive numbers of absences of students
2 eligible to be tested on state assessment instruments are
3 determined;

4 (2) when excessive numbers of allowable exemptions
5 from the required state assessment are determined;

6 (3) in response to complaints submitted to the agency
7 with respect to alleged violations of civil rights or other
8 requirements imposed on the state by federal law or court order;

9 (4) in response to established compliance reviews of
10 the district's financial accounting practices and state and federal
11 program requirements;

12 (5) when extraordinary numbers of student placements
13 in alternative education programs, other than placements under
14 Sections 37.006 and 37.007, are determined;

15 (6) in response to an allegation involving a conflict
16 between members of the board of trustees or between the board and
17 the district administration if it appears that the conflict
18 involves a violation of a role or duty of the board members or the
19 administration clearly defined by this code;

20 (7) when excessive numbers of students in special
21 education programs under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, are assessed
22 through assessment instruments developed or adopted under Section
23 39.023(b); [~~or~~]

24 (8) in response to a complaint submitted to the agency
25 concerning imposition of excessive paperwork requirements on
26 classroom teachers; or

27 (9) as the commissioner otherwise determines

1 necessary.

2 SECTION 5. Sections 2-4 of this Act apply beginning with the
3 2005-2006 school year.

4 SECTION 6. 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, 2005.