

By: Morrison

H.B. No. 2808

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties of the P-16 Council.

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

SECTION 1. Section 61.076, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.076. P-16 COUNCIL [~~COOPERATION BETWEEN STATE AGENCIES OF EDUCATION~~]. (a) It is the policy of the State of Texas that the entire system of education supported with public funds be coordinated to provide the citizens with efficient, effective, and high quality educational services and activities. The P-16 Council [~~board and the State Board of Education~~], in conjunction with [~~such~~] other agencies as may be appropriate, shall ensure that long-range plans and educational programs for the state [~~established by the boards~~] complement the functioning of the entire system of public education, extending from early childhood education through postgraduate study. [~~In assuring that plans and programs are coordinated, the boards shall use the P-16 Council established under Section 61.077.~~]

(b) The P-16 Council is composed of the commissioner of education, the commissioner of higher education, the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission, the executive director of the State Board for Educator Certification, and the commissioner of assistive and rehabilitative services. The commissioner of higher education and the commissioner of education shall serve as

1 co-chairs of the council.

2 (c) The co-chairs may appoint three additional members who
3 are education professionals, business representatives, or other
4 members of the community. Members appointed to the council under
5 this subsection serve two-year terms expiring February 1 of each
6 odd-numbered year.

7 (d) The council shall meet at least once each calendar
8 quarter and may hold other meetings as necessary at the call of the
9 co-chairs. Each member of the council or the member's designee
10 shall make a report of the council's activities at least twice
11 annually to the governing body of the member's agency, except that
12 the commissioner of education or that commissioner's designee shall
13 report to the State Board of Education and the commissioner of
14 assistive and rehabilitative services or that commissioner's
15 designee shall report to the executive commissioner of the Health
16 and Human Services Commission.

17 (e) The council shall coordinate plans and programs [of the
18 two boards], including curricula, instructional programs,
19 research, and other functions as appropriate. This coordination
20 shall include the following areas:

21 (1) equal educational opportunity for all Texans;
22 (2) college recruitment, with special emphasis on the
23 recruitment of historically underrepresented populations [~~minority~~
24 ~~students~~];

25 (3) preparation of high school students for further
26 study at colleges and universities;

27 (4) reduction of the dropout rate and dropout

1 prevention;

2 (5) teacher education, recruitment, and retention;

3 (6) testing and assessment; and

4 (7) adult education programs.

5 (f) The council shall examine and make recommendations
6 regarding the alignment of secondary and postsecondary education
7 curricula and testing and assessment. This subsection does not
8 require the council to establish curriculum or testing or
9 assessment standards.

10 (g) The council shall advise the board and the State Board
11 of Education on the coordination of postsecondary career and
12 technology activities, career and technology teacher education
13 programs offered or proposed to be offered in the colleges and
14 universities of this state, and other relevant matters, including:

15 (1) coordinating postsecondary career and technology
16 education and the articulation between postsecondary career and
17 technology education and secondary career and technology
18 education;

19 (2) facilitating the transfer of responsibilities for
20 the administration of postsecondary career and technology
21 education from the State Board of Education to the board in
22 accordance with Section 111(a)(I) of the Carl D. Perkins Vocational
23 Education Act (Pub. L. No. 98-524);

24 (3) advising the State Board of Education, when it
25 acts as the State Board for Career and Technology Education, on the
26 following:

27 (A) the transfer of federal funds to the board

1 for allotment to eligible public postsecondary institutions of
2 higher education;

3 (B) the career and technology education funding
4 for projects and institutions as determined by the board when the
5 State Board for Career and Technology Education is required by
6 federal law to endorse those determinations;

7 (C) the development and updating of the state
8 plan for career and technology education and the evaluation of
9 programs, services, and activities of postsecondary career and
10 technology education and amendments to the state plan for career
11 and technology education as may relate to postsecondary education;

12 (D) other matters related to postsecondary
13 career and technology education; and

14 (E) the coordination of curricula, instructional
15 programs, research, and other functions as appropriate, including
16 school-to-work and school-to-college transition programs and
17 professional development activities; and

18 (4) advising the Texas Workforce Investment Council on
19 educational policy issues related to workforce preparation.

20 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
21 amended by adding Section 61.0761 to read as follows:

22 Sec. 61.0761. P-16 COUNCIL EARLY CHILDHOOD TASK FORCE. (a)
23 The P-16 Council shall create a blue ribbon task force on early
24 childhood education to assist the council with the coordination of
25 the public education system as provided by Section 61.076. The task
26 force shall:

27 (1) study the resource needs of high-quality early

1 childhood care and education programs, including Head Start, Early
2 Head Start, prekindergarten, after-school programs, and programs
3 funded with federal child-care development funds;

4 (2) recommend options to secure additional funding for
5 the programs;

6 (3) build on the work of the demonstration projects
7 established in accordance with Section 29.160 and analyze the
8 barriers to and recommend combined criteria for the integration of
9 early childhood care and education programs and Head Start
10 programs, including differences in standards required for teaching
11 staff, child-to-staff ratios, and the quality of instruction;

12 (4) establish a plan to implement, in phases, full-day
13 prekindergarten programs for at-risk children and expand the
14 eligibility criteria for those programs;

15 (5) develop a common set of high standards and
16 eligibility criteria for community partnerships between school
17 districts, early childhood care and education programs, and Head
18 Start programs; and

19 (6) recommend methods to strengthen school readiness
20 standards for early childhood education programs.

21 (b) The task force shall consist of nine members appointed
22 by the P-16 Council as follows:

23 (1) three members of the public recommended by the
24 governor;

25 (2) three members of the senate recommended by the
26 lieutenant governor; and

27 (3) three members of the house of representatives

1 recommended by the speaker of the house of representatives.

2 (c) The council shall appoint one of the public members
3 recommended by the governor under Subsection (b)(1) as the public
4 chair. The lieutenant governor and speaker of the house of
5 representatives shall recommend to the council that one of the
6 members recommended by each presiding officer under Subsection (b)
7 be appointed as co-presiding officers with the public chair.

8 (d) The task force shall convene at the call of the
9 presiding officers.

10 (e) The task force may form working groups consisting of
11 members of the task force, members of the public involved in early
12 childhood care, and other members of the legislature.

13 (f) Not later than September 1, 2006, the task force shall
14 report the task force's findings and recommendations to the P-16
15 Council, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
16 representatives, and the members of the 79th Legislature.

17 SECTION 3. (a) Section 61.077, Education Code, as amended
18 by Chapters 61, 818, and 820, Acts of the 78th Legislature, Regular
19 Session, 2003, is repealed.

20 (b) To the extent of any conflict, this Act prevails over
21 another Act of the 79th Legislature, Regular Session, 2005,
22 relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted
23 codes.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.