

By: Eissler, Oliveira

H.B. No. 2814

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2814:

By: Zedler

C.S.H.B. No. 2814

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a language immersion pilot project in certain school districts.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter J to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER J. LANGUAGE IMMERSION PILOT PROJECT

Sec. 29.351. ESTABLISHMENT OF PILOT PROJECT. The commissioner shall establish a pilot project in school districts selected by the commissioner under which the agency examines language immersion programs and the effect of those programs on a student's ability to advance to high school, graduate from high school, or prepare for college coursework or postgraduation employment.

Sec. 29.352. PILOT PROJECT ADMINISTRATION. (a) The commissioner shall establish a procedure and adopt criteria for the agency to administer the pilot project.

(b) In adopting criteria under this section, the commissioner shall require the agency to select only school districts or campuses that:

(1) demonstrate a substantial enrollment of:

(A) students with limited English proficiency;

or

(B) bilingual students;

1 (2) demonstrate parent, teacher, and community
2 support for a language immersion program;

3 (3) will commit to a language immersion program in a
4 language other than English as selected by the district for a
5 minimum of three years in elementary grades;

6 (4) will offer in secondary grades at least one
7 language program in a language other than English or the language
8 used in the language immersion program provided under Subdivision
9 (3); and

10 (5) demonstrate the potential for expanding the
11 programs provided under Subdivisions (3) and (4) across primary and
12 secondary grades, including:

13 (A) incorporating the program provided under
14 Subdivision (3) in kindergarten; and

15 (B) offering the program provided under
16 Subdivision (4) for four years in high school.

17 (c) The agency shall require a school district or campus
18 selected under this subchapter to provide annual self-evaluations
19 of progress toward language immersion program goals.

20 Sec. 29.353. PILOT PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION. (a) The
21 commissioner by rule shall require a school district or campus to
22 limit activities of the language immersion program during the first
23 year of the program to:

24 (1) planning activities, including:

25 (A) hiring and training teachers and other
26 professional development activities as determined by the
27 commissioner; and

1 (B) acquiring adequate instructional and
2 technological materials in each program language, including
3 software; and

4 (2) expanding or improving existing language
5 immersion programs.

6 (b) The commissioner by rule shall develop procedures to
7 assign a technical assistance team that includes university faculty
8 with expertise in language learning to assist participating school
9 districts and campuses in program development, implementation, and
10 assessment.

11 Sec. 29.354. SCHOOL DISTRICT OR CAMPUS SELECTION. (a) The
12 agency shall select school districts and campuses to participate in
13 the pilot project using the criteria provided by Section 29.352(b)
14 and based on the readiness of the district or campus to incorporate
15 language immersion programs into classrooms as demonstrated by the
16 past performance of the district or campus relating to language
17 instruction.

18 (b) In selecting participants, the agency shall consider
19 geographic diversity.

20 (c) The agency shall select not more than 10 school
21 districts and not more than 30 elementary schools to participate in
22 the pilot project.

23 (d) A school district that applies for the expansion of an
24 existing language immersion program is eligible for a grant under
25 this subchapter.

26 Sec. 29.355. PILOT PROJECT FUNDING. (a) To implement the
27 pilot project, the agency may use only undedicated and unobligated

1 money from the general revenue fund for purposes of the pilot
2 project.

3 (b) The agency may not spend an amount more than \$5 million
4 per year for the language immersion pilot project under this
5 subchapter. The spending limitation imposed by this subsection
6 does not apply to an expenditure made by the commissioner under
7 Section 29.356(c).

8 (c) To supplement the funding for the pilot project, the
9 agency may use any gift, grant, or donation given for the pilot
10 project. The agency may solicit and accept a gift, grant, or
11 donation of any kind from any source, including from a foundation,
12 private entity, governmental entity, or institution of higher
13 education, for the implementation of the pilot project.

14 (d) Funds for the pilot project may not be used for the
15 construction of a building or other facility.

16 (e) The agency shall use funds under this subchapter for:

17 (1) teacher training in implementing the language
18 immersion programs;

19 (2) hiring technical support staff for school
20 districts or campuses participating in the pilot project; and

21 (3) purchasing technology-based instructional
22 materials and resources.

23 Sec. 29.356. PILOT PROJECT GRANTS. (a) From amounts
24 appropriated to the agency, including foundation school program
25 funds, the commissioner shall award grants to school districts and
26 campuses that participate in the program. A grant under this
27 section must be in an amount sufficient to pay the costs to the

1 district or campus of participating in the program, as determined
2 by the commissioner. A determination of the commissioner under
3 this subsection is final and may not be appealed.

4 (b) During the 2007-2008 school year, the commissioner may
5 award grants to school districts and campuses under this section
6 only for the purpose of planning activities described by Section
7 29.355(e) in an amount not to exceed five percent of the total
8 amount required to fully implement the pilot program for the
9 2008-2009 school year.

10 (c) To expand language learning opportunities for all
11 public school students and school district employees, including
12 students and employees in school districts not participating in the
13 pilot project, the commissioner shall enter into a contract to
14 license language-learning software using language immersion
15 methods. Expenditures under this subsection must be sufficient to
16 support language learning opportunities for a maximum of one
17 million public school students and employees for a maximum of three
18 years. The commissioner shall make the software available online
19 to public school students and employees across the state not later
20 than January 1, 2008. The commissioner may not spend more than \$4
21 million each year to comply with this subsection.

22 Sec. 29.357. COMMUNITY EDUCATIONAL PIPELINE PROGRESS
23 TEAM. (a) Each participating school district or campus shall
24 establish a community educational pipeline progress team to assist
25 in developing and implementing the language immersion pilot
26 project.

27 (b) The board of trustees of a participating school district

1 or of a school district in which a participating campus is located
2 shall appoint individuals to the team. The team may be composed of:

3 (1) educators;

4 (2) district-level administrators;

5 (3) community leaders;

6 (4) parents of students who attend a participating
7 campus; and

8 (5) any other individual the board finds appropriate.

9 (c) The team shall develop an academic improvement plan that
10 describes the manner in which the pilot project should be
11 implemented in the participating school district or campus. In
12 developing the academic improvement plan, the team shall consider:

13 (1) the educational problems in the district or at the
14 campus that could be mitigated through the implementation of the
15 pilot project; and

16 (2) the technological and nontechnological resources
17 that are necessary to ensure successful implementation of the pilot
18 project.

19 (d) The team shall recommend to the board of trustees the
20 manner in which the pilot project funds should be used to implement
21 the academic improvement plan developed under Subsection (c).
22 Annually, the team may recommend to the board any necessary changes
23 in the academic improvement plan. The agency must approve the
24 academic improvement plan or any changes to the plan before
25 disbursing pilot project funds to the board.

26 (e) The board of trustees of each district participating in
27 the pilot project shall provide an annual progress report to the

1 agency not later than August 1 of each year that the district is
2 participating in the pilot project. The report must state in detail
3 the type of plan used in the district or at the campus and the effect
4 of the pilot project on the district or campus, including:

5 (1) any effect on the academic progress of students
6 who are participating in a pilot project, as measured by
7 performance on assessment instruments, including assessment
8 instruments administered under Section 39.023;

9 (2) if applicable, a comparison of student progress at
10 a campus or in a classroom in a school district that is
11 participating in the pilot project as compared to student progress
12 at a campus or in a classroom in that same district that is not
13 participating in the pilot project;

14 (3) any elements of the pilot project that contribute
15 to improved student performance on assessment instruments
16 administered under Section 39.023 or any other assessment
17 instrument required by the agency;

18 (4) any cost savings or improved efficiency relating
19 to school personnel or the maintenance of school facilities;

20 (5) any effect on student attendance or dropout rates;

21 (6) any effect on student enrollment in high school;

22 (7) any effect on teacher performance or retention;

23 (8) any improvement in communications among students,
24 parents, teachers, and administrators;

25 (9) any improvement in parental involvement in the
26 education of the parent's child;

27 (10) any effect on community involvement and support

1 for the district or campus; and

2 (11) any increase in student proficiency in technology
3 that would help prepare students for becoming members of the
4 workforce.

5 Sec. 29.358. PILOT PROJECT EVALUATION. (a) The agency
6 shall perform an annual review of the language immersion pilot
7 project based on the reports the agency receives from the board of
8 trustees of participating school districts. The agency shall
9 include a summary of the review of the pilot project in the
10 comprehensive annual report required under Section 39.182.

11 (b) During the 2010-2011 school year, the agency shall
12 contract with one or more educational research centers to evaluate
13 the efficacy of the pilot project to determine whether the pilot
14 project should be continued. The cost of the evaluation may not
15 exceed \$250,000.

16 Sec. 29.359. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September
17 1, 2011.

18 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.