

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 3425

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the review of the public school system accountability.

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

4 SECTION 1. (a) The Select Committee on Public School
5 Accountability is established.

6 (b) The committee is composed of:

7 (1) the chairs of the Senate Education Committee and
8 the House Public Education Committee;

9 (2) one member of the senate, appointed by the
10 lieutenant governor;

11 (3) one members of the house of representatives,
12 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

13 (4) one teacher, one principal, one school district
14 superintendent and two other educators, appointed jointly by the
15 lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of
16 representatives;

17 (5) one representative of business or community,
18 appointed by the lieutenant governor

19 (6) one representative of business or community,
20 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

21 (7) two members of businesses and communities, at
22 least one of whom currently has one or more children attending
23 public schools, appointed by the Governor; and

24 (8) the Commissioner of Education and the Commissioner

1 of Higher Education.

2 (c) The chairs of the Senate Education Committee and the
3 House Public Education Committee serve as co-chairs of the
4 committee.

5 (d) The committee shall conduct an in-depth and
6 comprehensive review of the public school accountability system. In
7 conducting its review, the committee shall study the mission,
8 organizational structure, design, processes and practices of
9 similar systems in other states and the requirements established by
10 the Elementary and Secondary School Act. The committee must review:

11 (1) each element of the accountability system with
12 special emphasis on the indicators used to determine accreditation
13 status; rewards and incentives for campus excellence; and the
14 responsibilities of the commissioner of education in assisting and,
15 if necessary, sanctioning districts not meeting state performance
16 standards;

17 (2) the extent to which the system is aligned with
18 federal requirements under the No Child Left Behind Act;

19 (3) the extent to which the system reflects the public
20 education mission, objectives, and goals;

21 (4) the extent to which the system meets public
22 expectations;

23 (5) the extent to which the system fairly and
24 accurately reports the effectiveness of teachers, instructional
25 programs, support services and financial outlays and their impact
26 on student achievement;

27 (6) methods available to monitor the progress of each

1 individual public school student, with special emphasis on
2 demonstrable growth in academic achievement;

3 (7) performance indicators that would successfully
4 measure the effectiveness of the campus teaching and learning
5 environment, to include student discipline;

6 (8) the effectiveness of the system in reporting the
7 performance of charter schools and alternative education programs;

8 (9) the implementation of statewide assessment
9 instruments, particularly end-of-course exams;

10 (10) the extent to which the system measures the
11 performance of districts and campuses on important indicators and
12 aspects of the educational process other than standardized student
13 test scores;

14 (11) the extent to which the system clearly,
15 accurately, and understandably reports to parents and other
16 constituents the overall performance of districts and campuses; and

17 (12) the extent to which the system takes into
18 consideration the differing student demographics of districts and
19 campuses.

20 (e) The commissioner of education shall ensure that the
21 committee has access to any documentation and agency personnel the
22 committee requests.

23 (f) Meetings of the committee shall be held at the call of
24 the co-chairs.

25 (g) A majority of the members of the committee constitutes a
26 quorum.

27 (h) Not later than October 1, 2007, the committee shall be

1 established and hold an organizational meeting.

2 (i) The committee shall conduct public hearings throughout
3 Texas and solicit testimony from parents and other constituents
4 about the system, including holding at least one public hearing for
5 public school students in a public school setting.

6 (j) Not later than December 1, 2008, the committee shall
7 issue a report stating the findings of its review under Subsection
8 (d) of this section, including any recommendations for statutory
9 changes. The report must be approved by a majority of the membership
10 of the committee. Any dissenting member may attach a statement to
11 the report.

12 (k) Staff members of the Senate Education Committee and the
13 House Public Education Committee shall serve as the staff of the
14 committee.

15 (l) The Legislative Budget Board, comptroller, state
16 auditor, and other state agencies, officials, and personnel shall
17 cooperate with the committee in carrying out its duties under this
18 section.

19 (m) Each member of the committee is entitled to
20 reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in
21 performing committee duties. Each legislative member is entitled to
22 reimbursement from the appropriate fund of the member's respective
23 house. Each public member is entitled to reimbursement from funds
24 appropriated to the committee.

25 (n) The committee may coordinate its study with any other
26 legislative study.

27 (o) The committee expires January 13, 2009.

1 SECTION 2. Effective September 1, 2009, Chapter 39,
2 Subchapters C, D and E of the Education Code are repealed.

3 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all of the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article II, Texas Constitution. If this Act
6 does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act
7 takes effect September 1, 2007.