

By: Van de Putte, Patrick

S.B. No. 603

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to staff development requirements in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.451, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(d) The staff development [~~may~~]:

(1) may include training in:

(A) technology;

(B) conflict resolution; and

(C) discipline strategies, including classroom management, district discipline policies, and the student code of conduct adopted under Section 37.001 and Chapter 37; and

(2) subject to Subsection (e), must include research-based training that:

(A) relates to instruction of students with disabilities; and

(B) is designed for educators who work primarily outside the area of special education.

(e) A school district is required to provide the training described by Subsection (d)(2) to an educator who works primarily outside the area of special education only on the recommendation of the admission, review, and dismissal committee for a student receiving instruction from the educator.

1 (f) In developing the training required by Subsection
2 (d)(2), a school district must consult with persons with expertise
3 in research-based practices for students with disabilities.
4 Persons who may be consulted under this subsection include
5 colleges, universities, private and nonprofit organizations,
6 regional education service centers, and any other persons
7 identified as qualified by the district. This subsection applies
8 to all training required by Subsection (d)(2), regardless of
9 whether the training is provided at the campus or district level.

10 (g) The staff development may~~, and~~
11 ~~(3)~~ include instruction as to what is permissible
12 under law, including opinions of the United States Supreme Court
13 and guidance from the United States Department of Education,
14 regarding prayer in public school.

15 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2007-2008
16 school year.

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