

By: Olivo

H.B. No. 2903

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the curriculum that must be provided by a disciplinary
3 alternative education program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 37.008(a) and (1), Education Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Each school district shall provide a disciplinary
8 alternative education program that:

9 (1) is provided in a setting other than a student's
10 regular classroom;

11 (2) is located on or off of a regular school campus;

12 (3) provides for the students who are assigned to the
13 disciplinary alternative education program to be separated from
14 students who are not assigned to the program;

15 (4) provides structured courses in [~~focuses on~~]
16 English language arts, mathematics, science, history, and
17 self-discipline that are equivalent in content and rigor to courses
18 in those subjects as provided in the regular classroom setting;

19 (5) provides for students' educational and behavioral
20 needs;

21 (6) provides supervision and counseling;

22 (7) employs only teachers who meet all certification
23 requirements established under Subchapter B, Chapter 21; [~~and~~]

24 (8) provides not less than the minimum amount of

1 instructional time per day required by Section 25.082(a); and
2 (9) provides an established curriculum for each grade
3 level that provides students an opportunity to achieve promotion to
4 the next grade level or to graduate from high school on the same
5 schedule as students in the regular classroom setting.

6 (1) A school district is required to provide in the
7 district's disciplinary alternative education program a course
8 necessary to fulfill a student's high school graduation
9 requirements [~~only as provided by this subsection~~]. A school
10 district shall offer a student removed to a disciplinary
11 alternative education program an opportunity to complete
12 coursework before the beginning of the next school year. The school
13 district may provide the student an opportunity to complete
14 coursework through any method available, including a
15 correspondence course, distance learning, or summer school. The
16 district may not charge the student for a course provided under this
17 subsection.

18 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2009-2010
19 school year.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
21 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
22 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
23 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
24 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.