

By: Davis of Dallas

H.B. No. 3999

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to requiring Spanish language instruction in public
3 elementary schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by
6 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (o) to read as
7 follows:

8 (a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through
9 grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

- 10 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:
- 11 (A) English language arts;
 - 12 (B) mathematics;
 - 13 (C) science; ~~and~~
 - 14 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United
15 States, and world history, government, and geography; and
 - 16 (E) Spanish language; and
- 17 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:
- 18 (A) to the extent possible, languages other than
19 English and Spanish;
 - 20 (B) health, with emphasis on the importance of
21 proper nutrition and exercise;
 - 22 (C) physical education;
 - 23 (D) fine arts;
 - 24 (E) economics, with emphasis on the free

1 enterprise system and its benefits;

2 (F) career and technology education;

3 (G) technology applications; and

4 (H) religious literature, including the Hebrew
5 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on
6 history and literature.

7 (o) A student enrolled in kindergarten through grade three
8 must participate in a Spanish language course as part of the school
9 district's Spanish language curriculum. The State Board of
10 Education shall develop a Spanish language program that a school
11 district may use in the Spanish language curriculum under
12 Subsection (a)(1)(E).

13 SECTION 2. Section 39.023(a), Education Code, is amended to
14 read as follows:

15 (a) The agency shall adopt or develop appropriate
16 criterion-referenced assessment instruments designed to assess
17 essential knowledge and skills in reading, writing, mathematics,
18 social studies, ~~and~~ science, and Spanish. All students, except
19 students assessed under Subsection (b) or (1) or exempted under
20 Section 39.027, shall be assessed in:

21 (1) mathematics, annually in grades three through
22 seven without the aid of technology and in grade eight with the aid
23 of technology on any assessment instrument that includes algebra;

24 (2) reading, annually in grades three through eight;

25 (3) writing, including spelling and grammar, in grades
26 four and seven;

27 (4) social studies, in grade eight;

- 1 (5) science, in grades five and eight; [~~and~~]
2 (6) Spanish language, in grade five; and
3 (7) any other subject and grade required by federal
4 law.

5 SECTION 3. Not later than January 1, 2010, the State Board
6 of Education shall develop a Spanish language program as required
7 by Section 28.002(o), Education Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 4. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this
9 section, this Act applies beginning with the 2010-2011 school year.

10 (b) Section 39.023(a), Education Code, as amended by this
11 Act, applies beginning with the 2012-2013 school year.

12 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.