

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 4666

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to professional development institutes for public school  
3 teachers and paraprofessionals regarding education of students  
4 with disabilities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 21.461 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.461. PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTES REGARDING  
9 EDUCATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The commissioner  
10 shall develop and make available professional development  
11 institutes for teachers and paraprofessionals relating to  
12 research-based instructional services for students with  
13 disabilities, including autism spectrum disorders.

14 (b) A professional development institute developed under  
15 this section must address:

16 (1) disability-specific information necessary to  
17 enable a teacher or paraprofessional to work effectively in the  
18 classroom with students with disabilities;

19 (2) instructional techniques proven by scientifically  
20 based research to be effective in teaching the curriculum required  
21 under Section 28.002 to students with disabilities; and

22 (3) appropriate management of behaviors related to a  
23 student's disability that may affect the student's performance.

24 (c) The commissioner shall adopt criteria for selection of

1 teachers and paraprofessionals authorized to attend a professional  
2 development institute developed under this section. The  
3 commissioner must give priority to teachers and paraprofessionals  
4 who have a significant level of professional contact with students  
5 with autism spectrum disorders.

6 (d) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the  
7 commissioner shall pay a stipend to each teacher or  
8 paraprofessional who completes a professional development  
9 institute developed under this section. The commissioner shall  
10 determine the amount of the stipend paid under this subsection.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.