

By: Johnson

H.B. No. 271

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on effective methods for high school dropout prevention.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 7, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 7.035 to read as follows:

Sec. 7.035. STUDY OF BEST PRACTICES FOR HIGH SCHOOL DROPOUT PREVENTION.

(a) To the extent funding is available under Subsection (c), the commissioner shall contract with one or more centers for education research under Section 1.005 to:

(1) study the best practices of high school dropout prevention efforts that provide coordinated programming in a high school in conjunction with the elementary, middle, and junior high schools whose students are assigned to transition to that high school; and

(2) prepare a report regarding the findings of the study.

(b) The study under Subsection (a) must include but is not limited to an investigation of the feasibility of, and if feasible the best practices for:

(1) using state matching grants of money raised locally, including:

(A) using state money to maximize local

1 contributions; and

2 (B) creating a competitive process to distribute
3 state matching grants to school districts that have a high school
4 that has a high dropout rate;

5 (2) implementing early intervention strategies to
6 address high school dropout rates in elementary, middle, and junior
7 high schools whose students are assigned to transition to a high
8 school with a high dropout rate, including but not limited to the
9 use of:

10 (A) dropout prevention programs conducted by
11 schools and nonprofit entities;

12 (B) specialized personnel; and

13 (C) data collection and analysis to identify
14 students at risk of dropping out;

15 (3) identifying specific, local causes of dropping out
16 and developing strategies to address those causes;

17 (4) involving individuals and entities in dropout
18 prevention efforts, including:

19 (A) parents and guardians of students;

20 (B) nonprofit entities;

21 (C) businesses; and

22 (D) local governmental entities, including
23 municipalities, counties, and community colleges; and

24 (5) distributing funding and resources for use in high
25 school dropout prevention programs between a high school and the
26 elementary, middle, and junior high schools whose students are
27 assigned to transition to that high school to achieve the greatest

1 reduction in the dropout rate at that high school.

2 (c) The agency may solicit and accept a gift, grant, or
3 donation from any source, including a foundation, nonprofit entity,
4 private entity, governmental entity, institution of higher
5 education, or an individual for the implementation of the study.
6 The study may be implemented only if sufficient funds are available
7 under this subsection for that purpose.

8 (d) Not later than December 1, 2012, the commissioner shall
9 deliver the report produced under Subsection (a) to the governor,
10 the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
11 representatives, and the presiding officers of the standing
12 committees of each house of the legislature with primary
13 jurisdiction over public education.

14 (e) This section expires January 1, 2013.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.