

By: Rodriguez

H.B. No. 357

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 357:

By: Dutton

C.S.H.B. No. 357

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transition and employment services for public school students enrolled in special education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.011, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 29.011. TRANSITION PLANNING. (a) The commissioner shall by rule adopt procedures for compliance with federal requirements relating to transition services for students who are enrolled in special education programs under this subchapter. The procedures must:

(1) provide that appropriate state transition planning begins for a student not later than when the student reaches 14 years of age; and

(2) specify the manner in which a student's admission, review, and dismissal committee must consider, and if appropriate, address the following issues in the student's individualized education program:

(A) [~~(1)~~] appropriate student involvement in the student's transition to life outside the public school system;

(B) [~~(2)~~] if the student is younger than 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition;

(C) [~~(3)~~] if the student is at least 18 years of

1 age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition,
2 if the parent is invited to participate by the student or the school
3 district in which the student is enrolled;

4 (D) [~~(4)~~] any postsecondary education options;

5 (E) [~~(5)~~] a functional vocational evaluation;

6 (F) [~~(6)~~] employment goals and objectives;

7 (G) [~~(7)~~] if the student is at least 18 years of
8 age, the availability of age-appropriate instructional
9 environments;

10 (H) [~~(8)~~] independent living goals and
11 objectives; and

12 (I) [~~(9)~~] appropriate circumstances for
13 referring a student or the student's parents to a governmental
14 agency for services.

15 (b) The commissioner shall require each school district or
16 shared services arrangement to designate at least one employee to
17 serve as the district's or shared services arrangement's designee
18 on transition and employment services for students enrolled in
19 special education programs under this subchapter. The commissioner
20 shall develop minimum training guidelines for a district's or
21 shared services arrangement's designee. An individual designated
22 under this subsection must provide information and resources about
23 effective transition planning and services and interagency
24 coordination to ensure that local school staff communicate and
25 collaborate with:

26 (1) students enrolled in special education programs
27 under this subchapter and the parents of those students; and

1 (2) as appropriate, local and regional staff of the:

2 (A) Health and Human Services Commission;

3 (B) Department of Aging and Disability Services;

4 (C) Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
5 Services;

6 (D) Department of State Health Services; and

7 (E) Department of Family and Protective
8 Services.

9 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 29.0111 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 29.0111. TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDE. (a) The
12 agency, with assistance from the Health and Human Services
13 Commission, shall develop a transition and employment guide for
14 students enrolled in special education programs and their parents
15 to provide information on statewide services and programs that
16 assist in the transition to life outside the public school system.
17 The agency may contract with a private entity to prepare the guide.

18 (b) The transition and employment guide must contain
19 information specific to this state regarding:

20 (1) transition services;

21 (2) employment and supported employment services;

22 (3) social security programs;

23 (4) community and long-term services and support;

24 (5) postsecondary educational programs and services;

25 (6) information sharing with health and human services
26 agencies and providers;

27 (7) guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;

1 (8) self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and
2 self-determination; and

3 (9) contact information for all relevant state
4 agencies.

5 (c) The transition and employment guide must be produced in
6 an electronic format and posted on the agency's website in a manner
7 that permits the guide to be easily identified and accessed.

8 (d) The agency must update the transition and employment
9 guide posted on the agency's website at least once every two years.

10 (e) A school district shall:

11 (1) post the transition and employment guide on the
12 district's website if the district maintains a website; and

13 (2) provide written information and, if necessary,
14 assistance to a parent regarding how to access the electronic
15 version of the guide at:

16 (A) the first meeting of the student's admission,
17 review, and dismissal committee at which transition is discussed;
18 or

19 (B) the first committee meeting that occurs after
20 the date the guide becomes available, if a student has already had
21 an admission, review, and dismissal committee meeting discussing
22 transition.

23 SECTION 3. The Texas Education Agency, with assistance from
24 the Health and Human Services Commission, shall complete
25 development of the guide required by Section 29.0111, Education
26 Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2012. A
27 school district shall comply with Section 29.0111(e), Education

1 Code, as added by this Act, beginning on the date the guide is
2 available.

3 SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
4 Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012 school year.

5 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.