

By: Rodriguez

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 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 age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition,

1 if the parent is invited to participate by the student or the school
2 district in which the student is enrolled;

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

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

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

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

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

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

14 (b) The commissioner shall require each school district or
15 shared services arrangement to designate an employee as the school
16 transition and employment services coordinator to serve as the
17 district's or shared services arrangement's specialist on
18 transition and employment services for students enrolled in special
19 education programs under this subchapter. An individual designated
20 under this subsection must:

21 (1) communicate and collaborate on a regular basis
22 with:

23 (A) students enrolled in special education
24 programs under this subchapter and the parents of those students;
25 and

26 (B) local and regional staff of the:

27 (i) Health and Human Services Commission;

1 (ii) Department of Aging and Disability
2 Services;

3 (iii) Department of Assistive and
4 Rehabilitative Services;

5 (iv) Department of State Health Services;
6 and

7 (v) Department of Family and Protective
8 Services; and

9 (2) meet minimum transition training requirements
10 established by the commissioner.

11 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
12 amended by adding Sections 29.0111 and 29.0112 to read as follows:

13 Sec. 29.0111. TRANSITION INFORMATION. The agency shall
14 develop a Performance-Based Monitoring Analysis System indicator
15 regarding the preparation of students enrolled in special education
16 programs to transition to life outside the public school system.

17 Sec. 29.0112. TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT MANUAL. (a) The
18 agency, with assistance from the Health and Human Services
19 Commission, shall develop a comprehensive transition and
20 employment manual for students enrolled in special education
21 programs and their parents to assist in the transition to life
22 outside the public school system. The agency may contract with a
23 private entity to prepare the manual.

24 (b) The transition and employment manual must contain
25 information specific to this state regarding:

26 (1) transition services;

27 (2) employment and supported employment services;

- 1 (3) social security programs;
- 2 (4) community and long-term services and support;
- 3 (5) postsecondary educational programs and services;
- 4 (6) information sharing with health and human services
5 agencies and providers;
- 6 (7) guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;
- 7 (8) self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and
8 self-determination; and
- 9 (9) contact information for all relevant state
10 agencies.

11 (c) The transition and employment manual must be produced in
12 an electronic format and posted on the agency's website in a manner
13 that permits the manual to be easily identified and accessed.

14 (d) The agency must update the transition and employment
15 manual posted on the agency's website at least once every two years.

16 (e) The agency shall develop a summary document of the
17 transition and employment manual that briefly describes each topic
18 addressed in the manual and includes contact information for each
19 agency or program described in the manual. The summary must include
20 information about obtaining access to the complete manual.

21 (f) The agency must update the summary required under
22 Subsection (e) not later than the 30th day after the date the
23 transition and employment manual is updated in accordance with
24 Subsection (d).

25 (g) A school district shall:

26 (1) maintain at each campus in the district a hard copy
27 of the transition and employment manual that is posted on the

1 agency's website;

2 (2) on request, assist a parent or student in
3 obtaining access to the transition and employment manual; and

4 (3) provide one hard copy of the summary document
5 required under Subsection (e) to each parent of a student enrolled
6 in a special education program or adult student enrolled in a
7 special education program at:

8 (A) the first meeting of the student's admission,
9 review, and dismissal committee at which transition is discussed;
10 or

11 (B) the first committee meeting that occurs after
12 September 1, 2011, if a student has already had an admission,
13 review, and dismissal committee meeting discussing transition.

14 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012
15 school year.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
17 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
18 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
19 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
20 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.