

By: Eissler

H.B. No. 1589

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the study of productivity and cost-effectiveness in public education.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 2, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 9 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 9. CENTER FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION

Sec. 9.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the Center for Financial Accountability and Productivity in Public Education Board.

(2) "Center" means the Center for Financial Accountability and Productivity in Public Education.

Sec. 9.002. CENTER FOR FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRODUCTIVITY IN PUBLIC EDUCATION. (a) The Center for Financial Accountability and Productivity in Public Education is created as an independent policy center.

(b) The center shall represent business, finance, public policy, education, and other interests considered appropriate by the center.

(c) In performing the duties provided by this chapter, the center shall:

(1) work directly with the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and members of

1 the legislature; and

2 (2) work with the agency and other state agencies,  
3 regional education service centers, school districts, and  
4 open-enrollment charter schools.

5 Sec. 9.003. CENTER DUTIES. (a) The center shall:

6 (1) examine the productivity and cost-effectiveness  
7 of the public school system; and

8 (2) promote the use of successful methods to increase  
9 productivity and cost-effectiveness at the school district and  
10 campus levels.

11 (b) The center shall evaluate and rank the productivity and  
12 cost-effectiveness of each school district, campus, and  
13 open-enrollment charter school and provide a progress report and  
14 recommendations each year to:

15 (1) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
16 house of representatives, Legislative Budget Board, commissioner,  
17 and State Board of Education; and

18 (2) districts, campuses, and open-enrollment charter  
19 schools.

20 (c) The center may assist the legislature with policy  
21 studies related to the center's duties. The center may participate  
22 in collaborative studies with a foundation or organization inside  
23 or outside this state related to the center's duties.

24 (d) The center shall seek information, data, and best  
25 practices from state, regional, and national sources to use in  
26 performing the center's duties provided by this chapter.

27 (e) The center may contract with independent experts,

1 academic scholars, and other appropriate professionals in  
2 performing the center's duties provided by this chapter.

3 Sec. 9.004. BOARD. (a) The Center for Financial  
4 Accountability and Productivity in Public Education Board is  
5 created as the primary policy-making body of the center.

6 (b) The board is composed of three members. The governor,  
7 lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives  
8 shall each appoint one member. The board members appointed under  
9 this section must include individuals in the private sector who  
10 have an interest in improving productivity in public education and  
11 significant experience in organizational management, finance, or  
12 business. A board member may not:

13 (1) be a member of the board of trustees or an employee  
14 of a school district or a member of the governing body or an  
15 employee of or a charter holder of a charter for an open-enrollment  
16 charter school; or

17 (2) have a financial relationship with a vendor or  
18 contractor who provides goods or services to any part of the public  
19 education system of this state.

20 (c) Board members serve four-year terms.

21 (d) Board members shall annually elect one member as the  
22 presiding officer.

23 (e) A board member may not receive a salary for services as a  
24 board member but shall be reimbursed for expenses incurred in  
25 attending board meetings.

26 Sec. 9.005. BOARD DUTIES. (a) The board shall study the  
27 elements of a productive and cost-effective public education system

1 and make recommendations to:

2 (1) improve the productivity and cost-effectiveness  
3 of the public education system to meet the demands of the current  
4 century;

5 (2) provide greater financial accountability in the  
6 public education system;

7 (3) improve the state's ability to compete  
8 educationally and economically with other states and countries; and

9 (4) provide the public with information on public  
10 education productivity and cost-effectiveness.

11 (b) The board shall provide a report of the board's study  
12 and recommendations under Subsection (a) to:

13 (1) the Legislative Budget Board at least once each  
14 year; and

15 (2) the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the  
16 house of representatives, legislature, commissioner, and State  
17 Board of Education before the convening of each regular legislative  
18 session.

19 Sec. 9.006. SUPPORT FOR PERFORMANCE OF DUTIES. (a) State  
20 agencies, regional education service centers, school districts,  
21 and open-enrollment charter schools shall fully cooperate with and  
22 assist the center at the board's request.

23 (b) Data and information necessary to perform the center's  
24 duties under this chapter shall be provided at the board's request  
25 in a timely manner and at minimal cost. The board and center shall  
26 require confidentiality and other security measures for student  
27 data and information consistent with the Family Educational Rights

1 and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section 1232g).

2 Sec. 9.007. FUNDING. The center may be funded by donations,  
3 grants, and legislative appropriations.

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