H.B. No. 617

Rodriguez of Travis, et al. 1-1 By:

(Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini) (In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2013; April 25, 2013, read first time and referred to Committee on Education; May 10, 2013, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 10, 2013, sent to printer.) 1-2 1-3 1-4 1-5 1-6

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COMMITTEE VOTE

1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Patrick	X			
1-10	Lucio	Х			
1-11	Campbell			Х	
1-12	Duncan	Х			
1-13	Paxton	Х			
1-14	Seliger	Х			
1-15	Taylor			Х	
1-16	Van de Putte			Х	
1-17	West	Х			

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A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1-20 relating to transition and employment services for public school 1-21 students enrolled in special education programs. 1-22

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.011, Education Code, is amended to 1-24 read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 29.011. TRANSITION PLANNING. (a) The commissioner 1-26 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 1-27 1-28 1-29 procedures must specify the manner in which a student's admission, 1-30 review, and dismissal committee must consider, and if appropriate, 1-31 address the following issues in the student's individualized 1-32 education program:

1-33 appropriate student involvement in the student's (1)1-34 transition to life outside the public school system;

1-35 (2) if the student is younger than 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition; 1-36

(3) if the student is at least 18 years of age, appropriate parental involvement in the student's transition, if 1-37 1-38 1-39 the parent is invited to participate by the student or the school district in which the student is enrolled; 1-40 1-41

(4)any postsecondary education options;

(5)a functional vocational evaluation;

employment goals and objectives; (6)

if the student is at least 18 years of age, the 1-44 (7) 1-45 availability of age-appropriate instructional environments; independent living goals and objectives; and 1-46 (8)

(9)appropriate circumstances for referring a student or the student's parents to a governmental agency for services.

1-48 1-49 The commissioner shall require each school district or (b) 1-50 shared services arrangement to designate at least one employee to serve as the district's or shared services arrangement's designee 1-51 on transition and employment services for students enrolled in special education programs under this subchapter. The commissioner shall develop minimum training guidelines for a district's or 1-52 1-53 1-54 1-55 shared services arrangement's designee. An individual designated 1-56 under this subsection must provide information and resources about effective transition planning and services and interagency coordination to ensure that local school staff communicate and 1-57 1-58 1-59 collaborate with: (1) students enrolled in special education programs 1-60

under this subchapter and the parents of those students; and 1-61

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2-1	(2) as appropriate, local and regional staff of the:
2-2	(A) Health and Human Services Commission;
2-3	(B) Department of Aging and Disability Services;
2-4	(C) Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative
2-5	Services;
2 - 6 2 - 7	(D) Department of State Health Services; and (E) Department of Family and Protective
2-8	Services.
2-9	SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
2-10	amended by adding Section 29.0112 to read as follows:
2-11	Sec. 29.0112. TRANSITION AND EMPLOYMENT GUIDE. (a) The
2-12	agency, with assistance from the Health and Human Services
2-13	Commission, shall develop a transition and employment guide for
2 - 14 2 - 15	students enrolled in special education programs and their parents to provide information on statewide services and programs that
2-13 2 - 16	assist in the transition to life outside the public school system.
2-17	The agency may contract with a private entity to prepare the guide.
2-18	(b) The transition and employment guide must contain
2-19	information specific to this state regarding:
2-20	(1) transition services;
2-21	(2) employment and supported employment services;
2-22 2-23	(3) social security programs; (4) community and long-term services and support;
2-23 2-24	 (4) community and long-term services and support; (5) postsecondary educational programs and services;
2-25	(6) information sharing with health and human services
2-26	agencies and providers;
2-27	(7) guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;
2-28	(8) self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and
2-29	self-determination; and
2-30 2-31	(9) contact information for all relevant state agencies.
2-32	(c) The transition and employment guide must be produced in
2-33	an electronic format and posted on the agency's website in a manner
2-34	that permits the guide to be easily identified and accessed.
2-35	(d) The agency must update the transition and employment
2-36 2-37	guide posted on the agency's website at least once every two years.
2-37	(e) A school district shall: (1) post the transition and employment guide on the
2-39	district's website if the district maintains a website; and
2-40	(2) provide written information and, if necessary,
2-41	assistance to a parent regarding how to access the electronic
2-42	version of the guide at:
2-43 2-44	(A) the first meeting of the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee at which transition is discussed;
2-44 2 - 45	or
2-46	(B) the first committee meeting that occurs after
2-47	the date the guide becomes available, if a student has already had
2-48	an admission, review, and dismissal committee meeting discussing
2-49	transition.
2 - 50 2 - 51	SECTION 3. The Texas Education Agency, with assistance from the Health and Human Services Commission, shall complete
2-51	the Health and Human Services Commission, shall complete development of the guide required by Section 29.0112, Education
2-53	Code, as added by this Act, not later than September 1, 2014. A
2-54	school district shall comply with Section 29.0112(e), Education
2-55	Code, as added by this Act, beginning on the date the guide is
2-56	available.
2-57	SECTION 4. Except as otherwise provided by this Act, this
2 - 58 2 - 59	Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year. SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-59	a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-61	provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-62	Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-63	Act takes effect September 1, 2013.
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