

By: Strama

H.B. No. 1240

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study comparing the required public school curriculum essential knowledge and skills and the common core state standards.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0027 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0027. STUDY COMPARING THE ESSENTIAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS AND THE COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS. (a) In this section:

(1) "Common core state standards" means the national curriculum standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative.

(2) "Educational standards" means the essential knowledge and skills and the common core state standards.

(3) "Essential knowledge and skills" means the essential knowledge and skills of each subject of the required curriculum identified by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002(c).

(b) The agency shall contract with an organization that satisfies the criteria prescribed by Subsection (c) to conduct a study comparing the essential knowledge and skills and the common core state standards. The study must include comparisons of:

(1) the similarities and differences between the two sets of educational standards, including:

(A) a comparison of the rigor of the two sets of

1 educational standards; and

2 (B) an evaluation of which set of educational
3 standards would better prepare public school students in this state
4 for college and careers;

5 (2) the quality of, access to, and costs associated
6 with the instructional materials, as defined by Section 31.002, and
7 curriculum that are aligned with each set of educational standards;

8 (3) assessment instruments administered in connection
9 with each set of educational standards, including comparisons of:

10 (A) the costs per student in the use of:

11 (i) state-adopted assessment instruments
12 aligned with the essential knowledge and skills; and

13 (ii) national assessment instruments
14 aligned with the common core state standards;

15 (B) access to and the costs associated with
16 released assessment instrument questions and answers and practice
17 assessment instruments; and

18 (C) access to and the costs associated with
19 adaptive computer-based assessments;

20 (4) access to and the costs associated with
21 professional development and other training opportunities aligned
22 with each set of educational standards; and

23 (5) any other educational matter related to either of
24 the two sets of educational standards, as determined by the
25 organization.

26 (c) The agency may enter into a contract to conduct the
27 study under this section only with an organization that:

1 (1) was not involved in the adoption of either set of
2 educational standards;

3 (2) does not have a financial interest in either set of
4 educational standards; and

5 (3) is well respected in the education community for
6 carrying out responsibilities related to education, including
7 research or studies.

8 (d) Based on the results of the study under this section,
9 the organization shall:

10 (1) make a determination as to which set of
11 educational standards would be more effective in preparing public
12 school students in this state for college and careers;

13 (2) make any other relevant determinations as to the
14 educational standards; and

15 (3) prepare a report that contains the organization's
16 recommendations as to the educational standards and the study
17 results that support each recommendation.

18 (e) The agency may accept any gifts, grants, or donations
19 from any source to carry out the purposes of this section.

20 (f) Not later than June 1, 2014, the commissioner shall
21 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
22 house of representatives, and the presiding officers of the
23 standing committees of each house of the legislature with primary
24 jurisdiction over public education a detailed summary of the
25 organization's report and any agency recommendations or comments
26 concerning information in the report.

27 (g) This section expires January 1, 2015.

1 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.