

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 3358

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an open-enrollment charter high school designed to prevent students from dropping out of school.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter D-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER D-1. DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY OPEN-ENROLLMENT
CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

Sec. 12.141. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "charter high school" means a dropout prevention and recovery open-enrollment charter high school.

Sec. 12.142. CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL. (a) To serve the needs of at-risk students, improve the quality of the available workforce, and increase student success rates in obtaining and maintaining employment, a school that qualifies as an open-enrollment charter school under Subchapter D may apply to the commissioner to be designated a dropout prevention and recovery open-enrollment charter high school and be made subject to modified accountability system requirements as provided by this subchapter. The commissioner shall adopt a form to be used for an application under this section.

(b) An application by an open-enrollment charter school to be designated a charter high school as provided by this subchapter shall be approved if:

1 (1) 50 percent or more of the charter school's students
2 are 17 years of age or older; and

3 (2) 75 percent or more of the charter school's students
4 are considered to be at risk of dropping out of school as provided
5 by Section 29.081.

6 Sec. 12.143. ASSESSMENT AND ACCOUNTABILITY OF CHARTER HIGH
7 SCHOOL. (a) Provisions of this title and other laws applicable to
8 open-enrollment charter schools under Section 12.104 apply to a
9 charter high school, except a student who enrolls at a charter high
10 school is not included in calculating the dropout or completion
11 rates for the school unless the student remains enrolled for at
12 least 20 school days.

13 (b) In assessing the completion rate for students and
14 measuring the success of a charter high school in educating older
15 students otherwise excluded from the calculation of the completion
16 rate under guidelines of the National Center for Education
17 Statistics of the United States Department of Education, a charter
18 high school may request that the commissioner include all students
19 who graduate from the charter high school in the calculation of the
20 school's completion rate. If requested, the charter high school's
21 completion rate shall be calculated by dividing the sum of
22 graduates, high school equivalency certificate recipients, and
23 students continuing to attend the school by the sum of graduates,
24 high school equivalency certificate recipients, students
25 continuing to attend the school, and former students who are
26 dropouts.

27 (c) The commissioner may adopt a set of indicators to

1 measure the quality of learning and student achievement at a
2 charter high school.

3 (d) A charter high school is responsible for reporting
4 information required by the commissioner under this section,
5 performing the calculation specified in Subsection (b), and
6 covering all reasonable costs incurred by the commissioner in
7 verifying the required information and calculation.

8 Sec. 12.144. RULES. The commissioner may adopt rules
9 necessary to implement this subchapter.

10 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
11 school year.

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