

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 378

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study to determine public school facility needs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 44, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 44.904 to read as follows:

Sec. 44.904. STUDY REGARDING PUBLIC SCHOOL FACILITY NEEDS; RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commissioner shall study public school facility needs and make recommendations for meeting five-year and ten-year facility needs.

(b) The commissioner may work with institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, private organizations, regional education service centers, or school districts to conduct the study.

(c) The study must include an assessment of the five-year and ten-year facility needs of public schools and school districts that represent a variety of geographic regions, including:

(1) inner-urban school districts;

(2) small and rural school districts;

(3) fast-growth school districts;

(4) suburban school districts;

(5) open-enrollment charter schools;

(6) property-wealthy school districts; and

(7) property-poor school districts.

(d) For purposes of Subsection (c), a fast-growth school

1 district is a school district that has an enrollment of more than
2 3,400 students and has had an increase in student enrollment of at
3 least 10 percent over the five school years preceding the 2013-2014
4 school year or a district that has had a net increase in enrollment
5 of at least 5,000 students in any one of the five school years
6 preceding the 2013-2014 school year. The commissioner by rule
7 shall establish criteria for the other district categories
8 specified by Subsection (c).

9 (e) The study must include a survey of:

10 (1) portable and non-permanent buildings used as
11 school facilities;

12 (2) the cost of school facilities; and

13 (3) utility efficiencies.

14 (f) The study must include recommendations for meeting:

15 (1) the five-year and ten-year facility needs of each
16 public school and school district type listed in Subsection (c);
17 and

18 (2) the unique facility needs of public schools in
19 border areas, inner-urban areas, and disaster-prone areas such as
20 coastal areas.

21 (g) In developing recommendations required under Subsection
22 (f), the commissioner shall consider:

23 (1) growing construction costs;

24 (2) construction methods; and

25 (3) potential cost savings that may be achieved by
26 renovating facilities with energy-efficient utilities.

27 (h) Not later than September 1, 2014, the commissioner shall

1 submit the results of the study and recommendations to the
2 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
3 representatives, and the standing legislative committees with
4 primary jurisdiction over public education.

5 (i) The agency shall post the results of the study and
6 recommendations on the agency's Internet website.

7 (j) This section expires September 1, 2015.

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