

By: Deuell

S.B. No. 1469

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to alternative assessment of certain public school students under the public school accountability system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.0222 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.0222. ALTERNATIVE ASSESSMENT SYSTEM. (a) The agency shall develop and implement an alternative assessment system for students in grade levels three through eight in accordance with this section.

(b) A school district may apply to the commissioner for authority to assess students in grade levels three through eight under the alternative system. The commissioner shall approve a district's application unless exceptional circumstances indicate that approval for the specific district is unwarranted.

(c) Under the alternative system, the assessment instruments required by Sections 39.023(a), (b), and (1) shall be used to assess a student's progress over the course of a school year. To achieve that purpose, a school district that obtains approval under Subsection (b) of this section shall administer the assessment instruments to students at the beginning of the school year and at the end of the school year.

(d) For purposes of public school accountability under this chapter, the performance of a school district participating in the

1 alternative system shall be determined on the basis of a student's
2 progress during the school year.

3 (e) This section does not affect the applicability of
4 Section 28.0211 to students enrolled in a school district
5 participating in an alternative system.

6 (f) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
7 implement this section.

8 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
9 school year.

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