

By: González

H.B. No. 56

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate the English
3 language proficiency standards used in public schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 29.067 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.067. TASK FORCE ON ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY
8 STANDARDS. (a) A task force is established under this section to
9 evaluate the efficacy of the agency's English language proficiency
10 standards for students in grades 9-12.

11 (b) The task force shall be composed of the following
12 members appointed by the commissioner:

13 (1) five teachers who are certified in bilingual
14 education, with appointments reflecting the geographic diversity
15 of this state and including teachers from both rural and urban
16 school districts;

17 (2) one representative of the agency with expertise
18 related to the English language proficiency standards;

19 (3) one representative of the agency with expertise
20 related to the Texas essential knowledge and skills;

21 (4) one central office administrator from an urban
22 school district and one central office administrator from a rural
23 school district; and

24 (5) one superintendent of a school district that has a

1 proportionately high number of students of limited English
2 proficiency.

3 (c) The member of the task force appointed under Subsection
4 (b)(2) shall serve as the presiding officer of the task force.

5 (d) The commissioner shall appoint the members of the task
6 force not later than December 1, 2015.

7 (e) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
8 the task force on or before January 1, 2016. The task force shall
9 meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines
10 are appropriate. The task force shall adopt rules necessary to
11 fulfill the task force's duties under this section.

12 (f) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
13 task force.

14 (g) The task force shall:

15 (1) examine the impact of the agency's English
16 language proficiency standards on the achievement of students of
17 limited English proficiency in grades 9-12;

18 (2) examine the impact of the Texas essential
19 knowledge and skills on the agency's English language proficiency
20 standards;

21 (3) evaluate the efficacy of the agency's English
22 language proficiency standards for grades 9-12, with a focus on
23 maintaining quality of instruction and full access to the Texas
24 essential knowledge and skills curriculum;

25 (4) identify effective methods for incorporating the
26 Texas essential knowledge and skills curriculum into the agency's
27 English language proficiency standards for students in grades 9-12;

1 (5) examine the impact of the agency's English
2 language proficiency standards on the achievement of students
3 enrolled in special education programs; and

4 (6) examine the performance of students of limited
5 English proficiency who are evaluated with the agency's English
6 language proficiency standards against the performance of students
7 who are proficient in English.

8 (h) The task force shall prepare a report that includes:

9 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;

10 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
11 force, including any proposed policy recommendations; and

12 (3) any proposals for legislation or other matters the
13 task force considers appropriate.

14 (i) Not later than September 1, 2017, the task force shall
15 deliver the report required by Subsection (h) to the governor, the
16 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
17 the chair of the State Board of Education, and the Bilingual/ESL
18 Unit of the Division of Curriculum in the agency.

19 (j) The task force is abolished and this section expires
20 December 1, 2017.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.