

By: González

H.B. No. 313

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to employment of certified school counselors by school
3 districts.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 33.002, Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 Sec. 33.002. CERTIFIED SCHOOL COUNSELOR. (a) From funds
8 appropriated for the purpose or other funds that may be used for the
9 purpose, the commissioner shall distribute funds for programs under
10 this subchapter. In distributing those funds, the commissioner
11 shall give preference to a school district that received funds
12 under this subsection for the preceding school year and then to the
13 districts that have the highest concentration of students at risk
14 of dropping out of school, as described by Section 29.081. To
15 receive funds for the program, a school district must apply to the
16 commissioner. For each school year that a school district receives
17 funds under this subsection, the district shall allocate an amount
18 of local funds for school guidance and counseling programs that is
19 equal to or greater than the amount of local funds that the school
20 district allocated for that purpose during the preceding school
21 year. Subsections (b), (b-1), and (c) apply [~~This section applies~~]
22 only to a school district that receives funds as provided by this
23 subsection. Funds distributed under this subsection are in
24 addition to any other funds available for programs under this

1 subchapter, including funds provided under Section 42.2519.

2 (b) A school district [~~with 500 or more students enrolled in~~
3 ~~elementary school grades~~] shall employ a school counselor certified
4 under the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification for
5 each:

6 (1) elementary school in the district, if the district
7 has 350 or more students enrolled in elementary school grades;

8 (2) middle school in the district, if the district has
9 350 or more students enrolled in middle school grades; and

10 (3) junior high school in the district, if the
11 district has 350 or more students enrolled in junior high school
12 grades.

13 (b-1) A school district shall employ at least one school
14 counselor for every 350 [~~500~~] elementary school, middle school, or
15 junior high school students in the district and one additional
16 half-time school counselor if the district has an additional 175
17 students at the applicable grade levels.

18 (c) A school district with fewer than the number of [~~500~~]
19 students specified by Subsection (b) [~~enrolled in elementary school~~
20 ~~grades~~] shall provide guidance and counseling services to
21 elementary school, middle school, or junior high school students
22 by[+]

23 [~~(1)~~] employing a half-time [~~part-time~~] school
24 counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator
25 Certification[+]

26 [~~(2)~~] ~~employing a part-time teacher certified as a~~
27 ~~school counselor under the rules of the State Board for Educator~~

1 ~~Certification, or~~

2 ~~[(3) entering into a shared services arrangement~~
3 ~~agreement with one or more school districts to share a school~~
4 ~~counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator~~
5 ~~Certification].~~

6 (d) A school district with 250 or more students enrolled in
7 high school grades shall employ a school counselor certified under
8 the rules of the State Board for Educator Certification for each
9 high school in the district. A school district shall employ at
10 least one school counselor for every 250 high school students in the
11 district and one additional half-time school counselor if the
12 district has an additional 125 high school students.

13 (e) A school district with fewer than 250 students enrolled
14 in high school grades shall provide guidance and counseling
15 services to high school students by employing a half-time school
16 counselor certified under the rules of the State Board for Educator
17 Certification.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 42.2519 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 42.2519. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR CERTIFIED SCHOOL
21 COUNSELORS. (a) For each school year, from funds that may be used
22 for the purpose, a school district is entitled to state aid in an
23 amount, as determined by the commissioner, sufficient to assist the
24 district in employing the number of certified school counselors at
25 the high school level as required by Sections 33.002(d) and (e).

26 (b) The amount of state aid to which a school district is
27 entitled under this section is in addition to the amount of revenue

1 to which the district is entitled under Section 42.2516(b). This
2 subsection expires September 1, 2017.

3 (c) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
4 administer this section.

5 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016
6 school year.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.