

By: González

H.B. No. 345

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of a task force to study the standards of
3 the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test administered to
4 bilingual educators in public schools.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.0611 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.0611. TASK FORCE ON BILINGUAL TARGET LANGUAGE
9 PROFICIENCY TEST. (a) A task force is established under this
10 section to examine and review the Bilingual Target Language
11 Proficiency Test.

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

14 (1) one representative from the State Board for
15 Educator Certification;

16 (2) one representative from the Bilingual/ESL Unit of
17 the Division of Curriculum in the agency;

18 (3) four professional bilingual educators who are
19 certified after taking the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency
20 Test;

21 (4) four professional bilingual educators who are
22 certified without taking the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency
23 Test;

24 (5) two school district administrators who serve as

1 coordinators of bilingual programs in urban school districts; and

2 (6) two school district administrators who serve as
3 coordinators of bilingual programs in rural school districts.

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

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

8 (e) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
9 the task force on or before December 1, 2015. The task force shall
10 meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines
11 are appropriate. The task force shall adopt rules necessary to
12 fulfill the task force's duties under this section.

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

15 (g) The task force shall:

16 (1) review the Bilingual Target Language Proficiency
17 Test and determine if the test effectively evaluates the skills a
18 professional bilingual educator will use when interacting with
19 students and parents of students;

20 (2) determine if the Bilingual Target Language
21 Proficiency Test adequately identifies and delineates the
22 essential knowledge and skills that a professional bilingual
23 educator must teach students; and

24 (3) investigate the efficacy of the current passing
25 standards for each domain of the Bilingual Target Language
26 Proficiency Test in order to determine if the standards are overly
27 restrictive.

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

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

3 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
4 force, including any proposed policy and research recommendations;
5 and

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

8 (i) Not later than September 1, 2016, the task force shall
9 deliver the report required by Subsection (h) to the governor, the
10 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
11 and the commissioner.

12 (j) The task force is abolished and this section expires on
13 December 1, 2016.

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