

By: González

H.B. No. 355

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the creation of a task force to evaluate class size
3 limits in public schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 25, Education Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 25.116 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 25.116. TASK FORCE ON CLASS SIZE LIMITS. (a) A task
8 force is established under this section to evaluate class size
9 limits applicable under Section 25.112 to kindergarten through
10 fourth grade classes and determine whether similar limits should be
11 imposed on classes at grade levels five through eight.

12 (b) The task force shall be composed of members appointed by
13 the commissioner. In making appointments, the commissioner shall
14 ensure that the task force includes teachers, school principals or
15 other school administrators, superintendents or other central
16 office administrators, representatives of the agency, and other
17 interested persons.

18 (c) A representative of the agency designated by the
19 commissioner shall serve as the presiding officer of the task
20 force.

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

23 (e) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
24 the task force on or before January 1, 2016. The task force shall

1 meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines
2 are appropriate. The task force shall adopt rules necessary to
3 fulfill the task force's duties under this section.

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

6 (g) The task force shall evaluate:

7 (1) the effect of class sizes on student achievement,
8 including students enrolled in regular education programs,
9 students enrolled in special education programs under Subchapter A,
10 Chapter 29, students enrolled in bilingual education and special
11 language programs under Subchapter B, Chapter 29, and students who
12 are educationally disadvantaged; and

13 (2) the potential financial effect of imposing class
14 size limits on classes at grade levels five through eight on:

15 (A) school districts;

16 (B) the agency; and

17 (C) the state budget.

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

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

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

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

24 (i) Not later than September 1, 2017, the task force shall
25 deliver the report required by Subsection (h) to the governor, the
26 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
27 and the chair of the State Board of Education.

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

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