

By: González

H.B. No. 406

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to determine alternative methods of assessing the performance of public school students and school districts.

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

SECTION 1. TASK FORCE ON ALTERNATIVES TO STANDARDIZED TESTING. (a) A task force is established under this section to determine alternative methods of assessing the performance of public school students and school districts.

(b) The task force is composed of the following 42 members appointed by the commissioner of education:

(1) 10 teachers who are certified in bilingual education with a minimum of three years' classroom experience, with appointment reflecting the geographic diversity of the state and including teachers from both rural and urban school districts;

(2) three teachers specializing in language arts with a minimum of three years' classroom experience;

(3) two teachers specializing in mathematics with a minimum of three years' classroom experience;

(4) five teachers with a minimum of three years' classroom experience;

(5) 10 school administrators and school district central office administrators, with appointments reflecting the geographic diversity of the state; and

1 (6) 12 members who are students, parents of students,
2 or community members, including university professors and
3 education policy researchers.

4 (c) The commissioner of education shall appoint the
5 presiding officer of the task force.

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

8 (e) The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of
9 the task force on or before January 1, 2016. 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 SECTION 2. DUTIES OF TASK FORCE. The task force shall
16 evaluate alternative methods of measuring accountability to
17 replace standardized testing of students. The task force shall:

18 (1) determine alternative methods of measuring
19 accountability using multiple forms of evidence of student learning
20 and student growth, with information about student learning and
21 student growth obtained at the beginning, middle, and end of each
22 school year;

23 (2) develop an accountability measure that informs
24 teachers of the progress of students and provides real-time
25 diagnostic information to be used by the teacher;

26 (3) recommend a method of accountability that provides
27 assistance to teachers that is locally derived and reflects the

1 needs of the local district; and

2 (4) develop a system that is easy to incorporate and
3 streamline into curriculum and provides minimal disruption and
4 interruption to student learning.

5 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than February 1, 2018, the
6 task force shall deliver a report to the commissioner of education
7 detailing the task force's findings and recommendations. The
8 report shall be made available on the Texas Education Agency's
9 Internet website.

10 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this
11 Act expires March 1, 2018.

12 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September
13 1, 2015.