

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 435

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the instruction of American Sign Language in public
3 high schools.

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

5 SECTION 1. Sections 28.002(a) and (e), Education Code, are
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (a) Each school district that offers kindergarten through
8 grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

9 (1) a foundation curriculum that includes:

10 (A) English language arts;

11 (B) mathematics;

12 (C) science; and

13 (D) social studies, consisting of Texas, United
14 States, and world history, government, economics, with emphasis on
15 the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

16 (2) an enrichment curriculum that includes:

17 (A) to the extent possible, subject to Subsection
18 (e), languages other than English;

19 (B) health, with emphasis on the importance of
20 proper nutrition and exercise;

21 (C) physical education;

22 (D) fine arts;

23 (E) career and technology education;

24 (F) technology applications;

1 (G) religious literature, including the Hebrew
2 Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on
3 history and literature; and

4 (H) personal financial literacy.

5 (e) American Sign Language is a language for purposes of
6 Subsection (a)(2)(A). A public high school may offer an elective
7 course in the language. The elective high school course may be
8 offered through teleconferencing or another electronic means.

9 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2016-2017
10 school year.

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