

By: Allen

H.B. No. 568

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a review by the commissioner of education of state law
3 regarding student suspension, expulsion, or other disciplinary
4 action and the implementation of that law by school districts.

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

6 SECTION 1. REVIEW. (a) The commissioner of education shall
7 conduct a review of the student disciplinary provisions in Chapter
8 37, Education Code, the rules adopted under those provisions, and
9 the implementation of those provisions and rules by school
10 districts in this state.

11 (b) In conducting the review, the commissioner of education
12 shall focus attention on provisions that permit a school district
13 to exercise discretion in determining whether to suspend a student,
14 place a student in a disciplinary alternative education program, or
15 expel a student.

16 (c) The commissioner of education shall provide opportunity
17 for public comment regarding the review.

18 SECTION 2. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN AND RECOMMENDATIONS. (a)
19 After conducting the review and receiving public comment, the
20 commissioner of education shall develop a proposed plan for
21 reducing the number of discretionary disciplinary actions taken by
22 school districts in this state, including recommendations for any
23 necessary changes to state law to facilitate that goal.

24 (b) The commissioner of education shall post the proposed

1 plan and any recommendations for changes to state law on the Texas
2 Education Agency's Internet website and provide an additional
3 period for public comment before finalizing the plan and any
4 recommendations.

5 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2016, the
6 commissioner of education shall submit a report to the governor,
7 lieutenant governor, and members of the legislature containing the
8 results of the review and the plan and any recommendations
9 developed as a result of the review.

10 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect
12 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members
13 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas
14 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for
15 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.