

By: Leach

H.B. No. 1404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a committee to evaluate special education services in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.022 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.022. SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES EVALUATION COMMITTEE. (a) A committee is established under this section to examine, review, and evaluate the provision of special education services by public school districts in the state.

(b) The commissioner, in collaboration with the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives, shall appoint members of the committee. The committee shall be composed of:

(1) one member of the house of representatives;

(2) one member of the senate;

(3) one superintendent of a school district;

(4) one special education teacher;

(5) three parents of students who receive special education services from a school district;

(6) one physician who is a doctor of medicine; and

(7) one attorney who specializes in education law.

(c) The commissioner, in collaboration with the lieutenant governor and the speaker of the house of representatives, shall

1 designate a member of the committee to serve as presiding officer.

2 (d) The commissioner, in collaboration with the lieutenant
3 governor and the speaker of the house of representatives, shall
4 appoint the members of the committee not later than November 1,
5 2015.

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

11 (f) Members of the committee serve without compensation.

12 (g) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
13 committee.

14 (h) The committee shall:

15 (1) evaluate the compliance of each public school
16 district with current laws and rules related to special education
17 services; and

18 (2) review current laws and rules related to special
19 education services in public schools and recommend changes or
20 improvements to the laws or rules.

21 (i) Not later than November 1, 2016, the committee shall
22 deliver a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of
23 the house of representatives, and appropriate committees of the
24 legislature that includes:

25 (1) a description of the activities of the committee;

26 (2) the findings and recommendations of the committee,
27 including any proposed policy and research recommendations; and

1 (3) any proposals for legislation or other matters the
2 committee considers appropriate.

3 (j) The committee is abolished and this section expires
4 December 1, 2016.

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