

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study and report regarding the use of open-source instructional materials at public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 31.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 31.006. A STUDY ON USE OF OPEN-SOURCE INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS. (a) The commissioner shall select a center for education research authorized by Section 1.005 to conduct a study regarding the use of open-source instructional materials at public schools. The study must include:

(1) an analysis of any impact that the use of open-source instructional materials has on:

(A) the cost of other instructional materials;

(B) the operating costs for schools;

(C) teacher autonomy in the classroom; and

(D) instructional materials choice.

(2) any difference in the quality of content or effect on the learning process between open-source instructional materials and other instructional materials; and

(3) an evaluation of information from other states that have implemented the use of open-source instructional materials at similar schools regarding:

(A) the benefits realized and costs incurred from

1 the use of those materials; and

2 (B) best practices for the use of those
3 materials.

4 (4) an analysis of potential contributors in creating
5 open-source instructional materials including, but not limited to:

6 (A) institutions of higher education;

7 (B) school districts; and

8 (C) independent non-profit organizations.

9 (b) Not later than September 1, 2016, the agency shall
10 submit to each legislative standing committee with primary
11 jurisdiction over public education the results of its study under
12 this section and recommendations for legislative or other action.

13 (c) This section expires September 1, 2017.

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