

By: Farrar

H.B. No. 3973

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the validity, reliability, and design of certain
3 state-adopted or state-developed assessment instruments for public
4 school students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 39.023, Education Code, is amended by
7 adding Subsections (a-11) and (a-12) to read as follows:

8 (a-11) Before an assessment instrument adopted or developed
9 under Subsection (a) may be administered under that subsection,
10 the assessment instrument must, on the basis of empirical evidence,
11 be determined to be valid and reliable by an entity that is
12 independent of the agency and of any other entity that developed the
13 assessment instrument.

14 (a-12) The agency shall ensure that an assessment
15 instrument adopted or developed under Subsection (a) is designed
16 only to assess student understanding of the essential knowledge and
17 skills identified by the State Board of Education under Section
18 28.002 of the subject and for the grade level for which the
19 assessment instrument is administered.

20 (a-13) An assessment instrument adopted or developed under
21 Subsection (a) may be used only for purposes:

22 (1) for which the assessment instrument is designed;
23 and

24 (2) for which, on the basis of empirical evidence, the

1 assessment instrument is determined to be valid and reliable by an
2 entity that is independent of the agency and of any other entity
3 that developed the assessment instrument.

4 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016
5 school year.

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