

By: Taylor of Galveston
Garcia

S.B. No. 1200

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to recommend a new system for student assessment and public school accountability.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter N to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER N. TEXAS COMMISSION ON NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Sec. 39.501. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission" means the Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability.

Sec. 39.502. TEXAS COMMISSION ON NEXT GENERATION ASSESSMENTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY. (a) The Texas Commission on Next Generation Assessments and Accountability is established to develop and make recommendations for new systems of student assessment and public school accountability.

(b) The commission is composed of 15 members, consisting of the following:

(1) four members appointed by the governor;

(2) three members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) three members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) the chair of the senate committee on education, or

1 a representative designated by the chair;

2 (5) the chair of the senate committee on higher
3 education, or a representative designated by the chair;

4 (6) the chair of the house of representatives
5 committee on public education, or a representative designated by
6 the chair;

7 (7) the chair of the house of representatives
8 committee on higher education, or a representative designated by
9 the chair; and

10 (8) a member of the State Board of Education, as
11 designated by the chair of that board.

12 (c) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2),
13 and (3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
14 house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the
15 commission includes at least one of each of the following
16 representatives:

17 (1) a parent or person standing in parental relation
18 to a student enrolled in the public school system;

19 (2) an educator in the public school system;

20 (3) an educator in a school district that is a
21 participant in the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium under
22 Section 7.0561;

23 (4) a member of the business community;

24 (5) a member of the civic community;

25 (6) a leader in student assessment development and
26 use; and

27 (7) a leader in research concerning student assessment

1 and education outcomes.

2 Sec. 39.503. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall
3 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

4 Sec. 39.504. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
5 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the
6 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
7 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

8 Sec. 39.505. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

9 (a) Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative
10 support for the commission.

11 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
12 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency
13 for that purpose.

14 Sec. 39.506. RECOMMENDATIONS. The commission shall develop
15 recommendations under this subchapter to address:

16 (1) the purpose of a state accountability system and
17 the role of student assessment in that system;

18 (2) opportunities to assess students that:

19 (A) provide actionable information for a parent
20 or person standing in parental relation to a student, an educator,
21 and the public;

22 (B) support learning activities;

23 (C) recognize application of skills and
24 knowledge;

25 (D) measure student educational growth toward
26 mastery; and

27 (E) value critical thinking;

1 (3) alignment of state performance standards with
2 college and career readiness requirements in collaboration with the
3 Texas Workforce Commission and Texas Higher Education Coordinating
4 Board;

5 (4) policy changes necessary to enable a student to
6 progress through subject matter and grade levels on demonstration
7 of mastery; and

8 (5) policy changes necessary to establish a student
9 assessment and public school accountability system that meets state
10 goals, is community based, promotes parent and community
11 involvement, and reflects the unique needs of each community.

12 Sec. 39.507. REPORT. (a) The commission shall prepare and
13 deliver a report to the governor and the legislature that
14 recommends statutory changes to improve systems of student
15 assessment and public school accountability not later than
16 September 1, 2016.

17 (b) In preparing the report, the commission shall consider
18 the recommendations of the Texas High Performance Schools
19 Consortium established under Section 7.0561, including
20 recommendations related to innovative, next-generation learning
21 standards and assessment and accountability systems.

22 Sec. 39.508. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.
23 (a) The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill
24 its duties under this subchapter.

25 (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,
26 Government Code.

27 Sec. 39.509. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF

1 SUBCHAPTER. (a) The commission is abolished January 1, 2017.

2 (b) This subchapter expires January 1, 2017.

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