

By: Giddings, King of Hemphill, et al.

H.B. No. 972

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the assignment of a public school student to an
3 uncertified teacher.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 7.056(e), Education Code, is amended to
6 read as follows:

7 (e) Except as provided by Subsection (f), a school campus or
8 district may not receive an exemption or waiver under this section
9 from:

10 (1) a prohibition on conduct that constitutes a
11 criminal offense;

12 (2) a requirement imposed by federal law or rule,
13 including a requirement for special education or bilingual
14 education programs; or

15 (3) a requirement, restriction, or prohibition
16 relating to:

17 (A) essential knowledge or skills under Section
18 28.002 or high school graduation requirements under Section 28.025;

19 (B) public school accountability as provided by
20 Subchapters B, C, D, E, and J, Chapter 39;

21 (C) extracurricular activities under Section
22 33.081 or participation in a University Interscholastic League
23 area, regional, or state competition under Section 33.0812;

24 (D) health and safety under Chapter 38;

1 (E) purchasing under Subchapter B, Chapter 44;

2 (F) elementary school class size limits, except
3 as provided by Section 25.112;

4 (G) removal of a disruptive student from the
5 classroom under Subchapter A, Chapter 37;

6 (H) at-risk programs under Subchapter C, Chapter
7 29;

8 (I) prekindergarten programs under Subchapter E,
9 Chapter 29;

10 (J) educator rights and benefits under
11 Subchapters A, C, D, E, F, G, and I, Chapter 21, or under Subchapter
12 A, Chapter 22;

13 (K) special education programs under Subchapter
14 A, Chapter 29;

15 (L) bilingual education programs under
16 Subchapter B, Chapter 29; ~~or~~

17 (M) the requirements for the first day of
18 instruction under Section 25.0811; or

19 (N) assignment of a student to a teacher under
20 Section 28.0215, except as provided by Subsection (e) of that
21 section.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 28.0215 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 28.0215. REQUIREMENTS FOR ASSIGNMENT OF STUDENTS TO
25 TEACHERS. (a) This section applies only to a school district with
26 an enrollment of 5,000 or more students.

27 (b) A student in first through sixth grade who attends an

1 elementary school may not be assigned for two consecutive school
2 years to a teacher who:

3 (1) has less than one year of teaching experience; and

4 (2) does not hold the appropriate certificate required
5 under Section 21.003.

6 (c) The requirement imposed by Subsection (b) does not apply
7 if:

8 (1) the teacher to whom the student is assigned is
9 teaching a subject other than a subject included in the foundation
10 curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1); or

11 (2) the student's parent or other person standing in
12 parental relation to the student and a school counselor or school
13 administrator agree otherwise regarding assignment of the student
14 to the teacher.

15 (d) Subsection (b) does not apply to the first year a
16 student transfers into a school district.

17 (e) The commissioner may grant a waiver from the
18 requirements of this section to a school district if the
19 commissioner finds that extreme circumstances in the district
20 warrant the waiver. The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary
21 to implement this section.

22 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
23 school year.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.