

By: Blanco

H.B. No. 1042

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to student access to public school instructional materials and technology.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.006, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

(c) A student's parent is entitled to request that the school district or open-enrollment charter school the student attends allow the student to take home any instructional materials used by the student. Subject to the availability of the instructional materials, the district or school shall honor the request. A student who takes home instructional materials must return the instructional materials to school at the beginning of the next school day if requested to do so by the student's teacher. A school district or open-enrollment charter school must provide the instructional materials to the student in printed book format if the student does not have reliable access to technology at the student's home. In this subsection, "instructional material" has the meaning assigned by Section 31.002.

(d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school must document each parental request made under Subsection (c) to allow a student to take home instructional material used by the student that the district or school denies. The documentation must

1 include the reasons for denying the request. Not later than the
2 30th day after the date the district or school receives the request,
3 the district or school must report to the agency that the request
4 has been denied.

5 (e) Not later than September 1 of each year, the agency
6 shall submit an annual report to the legislature that includes the
7 number of parental requests made under Subsection (c) to allow a
8 student to take home instructional material used by the student
9 that each school district and open-enrollment charter school denied
10 and the reasons for the denial.

11 SECTION 2. Section 26.006, Education Code, as amended by
12 this Act, applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

13 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.