

1-1 By: Lozano (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 1553
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2017;
 1-3 May 10, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 19, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 10, Nays 0; May 19, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Taylor of Galveston	X			
1-8 Lucio	X			
1-9 Bettencourt	X			
1-10 Campbell	X			
1-11 Hall	X			
1-12 Huffines	X			
1-13 Hughes			X	
1-14 Seliger	X			
1-15 Taylor of Collin	X			
1-16 Uresti	X			
1-17 West	X			

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to permitting a school district that has failed to satisfy
 1-22 performance standards to partner with an institution of higher
 1-23 education to improve district performance.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Section 39.102(a), Education Code, is amended to
 1-26 read as follows:

1-27 (a) If a school district does not satisfy the accreditation
 1-28 criteria under Section 39.052, the academic performance standards
 1-29 under Section 39.053 or 39.054, or any financial accountability
 1-30 standard as determined by commissioner rule, or if considered
 1-31 appropriate by the commissioner on the basis of a special
 1-32 accreditation investigation under Section 39.057, the commissioner
 1-33 shall take any of the following actions to the extent the
 1-34 commissioner determines necessary:

1-35 (1) issue public notice of the deficiency to the board
 1-36 of trustees;

1-37 (2) order a hearing conducted by the board of trustees
 1-38 of the district for the purpose of notifying the public of the
 1-39 insufficient performance, the improvements in performance expected
 1-40 by the agency, and the interventions and sanctions that may be
 1-41 imposed under this section if the performance does not improve;

1-42 (3) order the preparation of a student achievement
 1-43 improvement plan that addresses each academic achievement
 1-44 indicator under Section 39.053(c) for which the district's
 1-45 performance is insufficient, the submission of the plan to the
 1-46 commissioner for approval, and implementation of the plan;

1-47 (4) order a hearing to be held before the commissioner
 1-48 or the commissioner's designee at which the president of the board
 1-49 of trustees of the district and the superintendent shall appear and
 1-50 explain the district's low performance, lack of improvement, and
 1-51 plans for improvement;

1-52 (5) arrange a monitoring review of the district;

1-53 (6) appoint an agency monitor to participate in and
 1-54 report to the agency on the activities of the board of trustees or
 1-55 the superintendent;

1-56 (7) appoint a conservator to oversee the operations of
 1-57 the district;

1-58 (8) appoint a management team to direct the operations
 1-59 of the district in areas of insufficient performance or require the
 1-60 district to obtain certain services under a contract with another
 1-61 person;

2-1 (9) authorize the district to enter into a memorandum
2-2 of understanding with an institution of higher education that
2-3 provides for the assistance of the institution of higher education
2-4 in improving the district's performance;

2-5 (10) if a district has a current accreditation status
2-6 of accredited-warned or accredited-probation, fails to satisfy any
2-7 standard under Section 39.054(e), or fails to satisfy financial
2-8 accountability standards as determined by commissioner rule,
2-9 appoint a board of managers to exercise the powers and duties of the
2-10 board of trustees;

2-11 (11) [~~(10)~~] if for two consecutive school years,
2-12 including the current school year, a district has received an
2-13 accreditation status of accredited-warned or accredited-probation,
2-14 has failed to satisfy any standard under Section 39.054(e), or has
2-15 failed to satisfy financial accountability standards as determined
2-16 by commissioner rule, revoke the district's accreditation and:

2-17 (A) order closure of the district and annex the
2-18 district to one or more adjoining districts under Section 13.054;
2-19 or

2-20 (B) in the case of a home-rule school district or
2-21 open-enrollment charter school, order closure of all programs
2-22 operated under the district's or school's charter; or

2-23 (12) [~~(11)~~] if a district has failed to satisfy any
2-24 standard under Section 39.054(e) due to the district's dropout
2-25 rates, impose sanctions designed to improve high school completion
2-26 rates, including:

2-27 (A) ordering the development of a dropout
2-28 prevention plan for approval by the commissioner;

2-29 (B) restructuring the district or appropriate
2-30 school campuses to improve identification of and service to
2-31 students who are at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by
2-32 Section 29.081;

2-33 (C) ordering lower student-to-counselor ratios
2-34 on school campuses with high dropout rates; and

2-35 (D) ordering the use of any other intervention
2-36 strategy effective in reducing dropout rates, including mentor
2-37 programs and flexible class scheduling.

2-38 SECTION 2. Section 39.111(c), Education Code, is amended to
2-39 read as follows:

2-40 (c) A conservator or management team, if directed by the
2-41 commissioner, shall prepare a plan for the implementation of action
2-42 under Section 39.102(a)(10) or (11) [~~39.102(a)(9) or (10)~~]. The
2-43 conservator or management team:

2-44 (1) may direct an action to be taken by the principal
2-45 of a campus, the superintendent of the district, or the board of
2-46 trustees of the district;

2-47 (2) may approve or disapprove any action of the
2-48 principal of a campus, the superintendent of the district, or the
2-49 board of trustees of the district;

2-50 (3) may not take any action concerning a district
2-51 election, including ordering or canceling an election or altering
2-52 the date of or the polling places for an election;

2-53 (4) may not change the number of or method of selecting
2-54 the board of trustees;

2-55 (5) may not set a tax rate for the district; and

2-56 (6) may not adopt a budget for the district that
2-57 provides for spending a different amount, exclusive of required
2-58 debt service, from that previously adopted by the board of
2-59 trustees.

2-60 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
2-61 school year.

2-62 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-63 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-64 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-65 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-66 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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