

By: Lucio

S.B. No. 1692

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a nutrition education task force.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that:

(1) providing nutrition education in public schools is an important means to improve the health and extend the lives of inhabitants of this state;

(2) poor eating habits and lack of physical activity increase the likelihood of poor educational outcomes, which has a direct impact on the future of this state;

(3) nutrition education is offered in most public schools traditionally as part of the curriculum for health classes, but the proportion of student participation at each grade level is unknown;

(4) nutrition education offered in public schools can be improved and further coordinated:

(A) across different subject areas in the existing curriculum for all grade levels; and

(B) through school meal programs;

(5) this state and students enrolled in public school in this state would greatly benefit if this state became an innovative leader in nutrition education;

(6) improving the health of the inhabitants of this state would reduce the consequences of poor nutrition, including

1 associated illnesses such as obesity, diabetes, and related social
2 anxiety mental illnesses; and

3 (7) to address illnesses associated with poor
4 nutrition, this state should focus on increasing awareness of
5 nutrition in public schools.

6 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 28.0042 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.0042. NUTRITION EDUCATION TASK FORCE. (a) The
9 commissioner shall create a nutrition education task force to
10 develop policy recommendations regarding nutrition education in
11 public schools, including how to:

12 (1) increase awareness of students in kindergarten
13 through 12th grade of good nutrition;

14 (2) assist students in developing healthy eating
15 habits; and

16 (3) address illnesses developed from poor nutrition,
17 including obesity and diabetes.

18 (b) The task force is composed of:

19 (1) the commissioner of education;

20 (2) the commissioner of state health services;

21 (3) the commissioner of agriculture;

22 (4) experts in nutrition; and

23 (5) any other health or education experts as
24 determined by the commissioner of education, the commissioner of
25 state health services, and the commissioner of agriculture.

26 (c) The commissioner of education shall serve as the
27 presiding officer of the task force.

1 (d) A member of the task force may not receive compensation
2 for serving on the task force.

3 (e) The task force must:

4 (1) identify and study the development of an
5 age-appropriate curriculum for nutrition education in public
6 schools that:

7 (A) increases student knowledge of appropriate
8 nutrition; and

9 (B) provides proven strategies that influence
10 student motivation, including strategies that:

11 (i) teach positive nutrition skills;

12 (ii) encourage healthy eating behaviors;

13 (iii) mitigate unhealthy attitudes; and

14 (iv) provide students the necessary tools
15 to accomplish nutritional goals;

16 (2) assess existing nutrition education curriculum,
17 resources, and initiatives in public schools that address illnesses
18 caused by poor nutrition, including obesity and diabetes;

19 (3) develop recommendations, initiatives, and reforms
20 that can be implemented to improve the success of nutrition
21 education, resources, and materials designed to assist teachers in
22 preparing nutrition education lessons;

23 (4) work with appropriate state and federal officials
24 to develop reforms that:

25 (A) increase the effectiveness of public school
26 meal programs; and

27 (B) encourage an active role in nutrition

1 education, including providing:

- 2 (i) nutrient information for school meals;
- 3 (ii) nutrition education in the classroom;

4 and

- 5 (iii) other educational activities,
- 6 primarily in kindergarten through fifth grade, to increase
- 7 awareness of nutrition benefits;

8 (5) develop recommendations relating to increasing
9 the effectiveness of nutrition coordinators, including:

10 (A) reporting information regarding:

11 (i) the number of schools that have a
12 nutrition coordinator; and

13 (ii) the role of the nutrition coordinator
14 in integrating a nutrition curriculum;

15 (B) developing requirements for placing a
16 nutrition coordinator on each public school campus;

17 (C) coordinating a nutrition curriculum that
18 provides a coherent sequence of nutrition lessons for kindergarten
19 through 12th grade; and

20 (D) integrating nutrition lessons:

21 (i) across different subject areas at the
22 same grade level; and

23 (ii) in the classroom with related
24 nonclassroom activities; and

25 (6) in the report required under Subsection (h), make
26 specific recommendations for legislative and other actions,
27 including budget-related recommendations regarding policy

1 initiatives and reforms necessary to implement and increase
2 nutrition education, awareness, and resources in public schools in
3 kindergarten through 12th grade.

4 (f) State agencies shall cooperate with the task force as
5 necessary.

6 (g) The task force shall meet not less than once each month.
7 The task force may meet by telephone conference call,
8 videoconference, or any similar telecommunication method.

9 (h) Not later than November 1 of each even-numbered year,
10 the task force shall prepare a report on the task force's
11 recommendations and provide the report in writing or electronically
12 to the governor and members of the legislature.

13 (i) At least every three years, the agency, the Department
14 of State Health Services, and the Department of Agriculture shall
15 review and, if necessary, revise any rules, recommendations, and
16 policies implemented based on the recommendations of the task
17 force.

18 SECTION 3. Not later than March 1, 2018, the Nutrition
19 Education Task Force established under Section 28.0042, Education
20 Code, as added by this Act, shall develop and submit to the Texas
21 Education Agency, the Department of State Health Services, and the
22 Department of Agriculture recommendations for implementation
23 during the 2018-2019 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.