86R14215 MP-D

By:  Meza H.B. No. 3037

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to study the segregation of public school students with disabilities from other public school students.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.028 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.028.  TASK FORCE ON THE SEGREGATION OF STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) The agency shall establish a task force to study the segregation of public school students with disabilities from other public school students.

(b)  The task force shall be composed of teachers, advocates, parents, and other stakeholders selected by the agency.

(c)  The agency shall designate a member of the task force to serve as presiding officer.

(d)  A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same manner as the initial selection.

(e)  A member of the task force may not receive compensation for service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force duties.

(f)  The task force may accept gifts and grants from any source to be used to carry out a function of the task force.

(g)  The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call of the presiding officer and at other times as determined by the presiding officer.

(h)  The task force shall:

(1)  conduct an ongoing study of the effect of public schools segregating students with disabilities from other students. The study must address:

(A)  student achievement on assessment instruments adopted under Chapter 39;

(B)  student absences from class;

(C)  student violations of the student code of conduct; and

(D)  other factors as determined relevant by the agency; and

(2)  develop recommendations for schools to better integrate students with disabilities into all school activities.

(i)  Not less than once every two years, the task force shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the standing committees of the legislature having jurisdiction over the agency a report that summarizes the study conducted and recommendations developed under Subsection (h).

(j)  Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the task force established under this section.

(k)  The task force shall submit the first report required under Subsection (i) not later than December 31, 2020.

SECTION 2.  Not later than December 1, 2019, the Texas Education Agency shall appoint members to the task force established by Section 29.028, Education Code, as added by this Act, in the manner required by Subsection (b) of that section.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.