86R12379 TSS-F

By:  González of El Paso H.B. No. 3237

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a temporary suspension of accountability sanctions for public schools and to studies on accountability assessment instruments.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter K, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.335 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.335.  ALTERNATIVE ACCOUNTABILITY INSTRUMENT STUDY. (a) The agency shall conduct a study on potential alternative assessment instruments that may be used for purposes of the state accountability system instead of the assessment instruments adopted under Section 39.023.

(b)  Not later than December 1, 2020, the agency shall submit a report to the legislature that includes the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

(c)  This section expires September 1, 2021.

SECTION 2.  Subchapter Z, Chapter 39A, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39A.907 to read as follows:

Sec. 39A.907.  TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF SANCTIONS; ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENT STUDY. (a) Notwithstanding any other law, interventions and sanctions under this chapter may not be applied to a school district or campus for an unacceptable performance rating under Section 39.054 received for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year.

(b)  The performance rating assigned to a school district or campus for the 2019-2020 or 2020-2021 school year may not be used as the basis for the imposition of any intervention or sanction authorized by this chapter after the 2020-2021 school year, including an intervention or sanction authorized by Section 39A.101 or 39A.111.

(c)  The commissioner shall conduct a study to determine whether, for each applicable grade level, each assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023(a) is written at the appropriate reading level for students in that grade level.

(d)  As part of the study required by Subsection (c), the commissioner shall provide notice of and hold at least one public hearing to receive public comment.

(e)  Not later than August 1, 2020, the commissioner shall submit a report to the legislature that includes the results of the study, a summary of the comments from the public hearing or hearings, and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

(f)  If the report submitted by the commissioner under Subsection (e) indicates that any assessment instrument adopted under Section 39.023(a) was written at a reading level above the grade level of the students to which the assessment instrument was administered, the commissioner shall revise the performance standard for that assessment instrument under Section 39.0241 as necessary to more accurately reflect student performance.

(g)  This section expires September 1, 2023.

SECTION 3.  Section 39A.907, Education Code, as added by this Act, applies beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

SECTION 4.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.