

By: Bernal

H.B. No. 129

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the assignment of certain certified or licensed professionals to certain public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 33.909 to read as follows:

Sec. 33.909. ASSIGNMENT OF CERTAIN CERTIFIED OR LICENSED PROFESSIONALS. (a) At each campus in a school district in which 90 percent or more of the students in average daily attendance at the campus are educationally disadvantaged, homeless as defined by 42 U.S.C. Section 11302, or in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services, the district shall assign at least one person employed by the district who is:

(1) a school counselor; or

(2) an audiologist, occupational therapist, physical therapist, physician, nurse, school psychologist, associate school psychologist, professional counselor, marriage and family therapist, social worker, or speech language pathologist licensed by the appropriate state agency that licenses that profession and who holds the appropriate credential from the appropriate state agency.

(b) A school district may not require a person assigned under this section to administer assessment instruments or provide other assistance in connection with assessment instruments.

1 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is
2 amended by adding Section 42.2519 to read as follows:

3 Sec. 42.2519. ADDITIONAL STATE AID FOR CERTAIN CERTIFIED OR
4 LICENSED PROFESSIONALS. (a) For each school year, from funds that
5 may be used for the purpose, a school district is entitled to state
6 aid in an amount, as determined by the commissioner, sufficient to
7 assist the district in employing the number of certified or
8 licensed professionals required by Section 33.909.

9 (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to
10 administer this section.

11 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2020-2021
12 school year.

13 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.