

By: King of Hemphill, González of El Paso,
Bernal

H.B. No. 2609

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to permissible teachers assigned to a bilingual education
3 program and the permissible uses of the bilingual education
4 allotment provided under the foundation school program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 29.061, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (b) and (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-3) to
8 read as follows:

9 (b) Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), a [A] teacher
10 assigned to a bilingual education program using one of the
11 following program models must be appropriately certified for
12 bilingual education by the board:

13 (1) transitional bilingual/early exit program model;

14 or

15 (2) transitional bilingual/late exit program model.

16 (b-1) Except as provided by Subsection (b-3), a [A] teacher
17 assigned to a bilingual education program using a dual language
18 immersion/one-way or two-way program model must be appropriately
19 certified by the board for:

20 (1) bilingual education for the component of the
21 program provided in a language other than English; and

22 (2) bilingual education or English as a second
23 language for the component of the program provided in English.

24 (b-3) A school district may assign to any bilingual

1 education program a teacher certified for English as a second
2 language for a school year if:

3 (1) the commissioner has determined that there is a
4 shortage of teachers certified for bilingual education by the board
5 for the school year; and

6 (2) a teacher certified for bilingual education is not
7 reasonably available to the district.

8 SECTION 2. Section 42.153(c), Education Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (c) A district's bilingual education or special language
11 allocation may be used only for:

12 (1) program and student evaluation;~~]~~

13 (2) instructional materials and equipment;~~]~~

14 (3) staff development, including assisting a teacher
15 employed by the district in obtaining certification under Section
16 29.061;

17 (4) supplemental staff expenses;~~]~~

18 (5) salary supplements for teachers;~~]~~ and

19 (6) other supplies required for quality instruction
20 and smaller class size.

21 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
22 school year.

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