

By: Zwiener

H.B. No. 2934

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the assessment of public school students in writing under an alternative method.

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

SECTION 1. Section 39.023, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-14) to read as follows:

(a-14) An assessment instrument administered to students in grade four to assess skills in writing is not subject to Subsections (a-12) and (a-13).

SECTION 2. Sections 39.02301(b), (f), (h), and (j), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) During the 2020-2021 [~~2016-2017~~] and 2021-2022 [~~2017-2018~~] school years, the agency shall operate [~~establish~~] a pilot program as provided by this section to implement in designated school districts the writing assessment method developed under Subsection (a).

(f) The agency, in consultation with teachers, shall develop a rubric for scoring student writing assessments under the pilot program. The individuals responsible for scoring student writing assessments [~~under the pilot program~~] shall be coordinated [~~jointly~~] by the agency with joint participation of:

(1) the school district in which the student is enrolled and that is participating in the pilot program;

(2) a public junior college or institution of higher

1 education that enters into an agreement with the participating
2 school district; and

3 (3) the regional education service center that serves
4 the participating district.

5 (h) ~~[Not later than September 1, 2016, the agency shall~~
6 ~~prepare and deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the~~
7 ~~speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer~~
8 ~~of each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction~~
9 ~~over primary and secondary education a report covering the study of~~
10 ~~the development of the writing assessment method under Subsection~~
11 ~~(a).]~~ Not later than September 1, 2021, and September 1, 2022 ~~[of~~
12 ~~each year in 2017 and 2018]~~, the agency shall prepare and deliver to
13 the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
14 representatives, and the presiding officer of each legislative
15 standing committee with primary jurisdiction over primary and
16 secondary education a report that:

17 (1) evaluates the implementation and progress of the
18 pilot program under this section; and

19 (2) makes recommendations regarding the continuation
20 or expansion of the pilot program.

21 (j) This section expires September 1, 2023 ~~[2019]~~.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.