

By: Allen

H.B. No. 4004

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on improving educational outcomes for public school students of limited English proficiency.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.068 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.068. STUDY ON IMPROVING EDUCATIONAL OUTCOMES FOR STUDENTS OF LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENCY. (a) In this section, "coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(b) The agency and the coordinating board jointly shall conduct a study on improving educational outcomes for students of limited English proficiency.

(c) The study must analyze:

(1) current practices of screening and placing students of limited English proficiency in a bilingual education or special language program under this subchapter;

(2) the ability of students of limited English proficiency to access high quality prekindergarten programs operated under Subchapter E-1, including how the prekindergarten guidelines established by the agency may be better used to support learning for those students;

(3) current practices for assessing English proficiency, including the effectiveness of assessing English

1 proficiency:

2 (A) under the assessment system developed by the
3 commissioner under Section 39.027(e);

4 (B) with a reading instrument included on the
5 list adopted by the commissioner for use in diagnosing the reading
6 development and comprehension of kindergarten students under
7 Section 28.006(b);

8 (C) with the tools used by a language proficiency
9 assessment committee under Section 29.063 to monitor a student's
10 progress; and

11 (D) with a reading assessment instrument
12 administered under Section 39.023(a);

13 (4) the extent to which students of limited English
14 proficiency who are also eligible for a special education program
15 under Subchapter A are being provided equitable and quality early
16 learning experiences through early childhood special education
17 services;

18 (5) any difference in educational outcomes for
19 students of limited English proficiency enrolled in each
20 classification of bilingual education or special language program
21 under Section 29.066, including an analysis of any demographic
22 differences between the students primarily enrolled in each
23 classification of program;

24 (6) any barriers to or limitations on the
25 implementation by school districts of higher quality programming
26 for students of limited English proficiency;

27 (7) teacher preparation programs at public

1 institutions of higher education, including an analysis of:

2 (A) the course work and professional development
3 requirements associated with teaching certificates appropriate for
4 bilingual education instruction or for teaching English as a second
5 language issued under Section 29.061; and

6 (B) methods for recruiting classroom teachers
7 from diverse backgrounds to teach in bilingual education or special
8 language programs; and

9 (8) the feasibility of improving publicly available
10 data used to track the educational outcomes of students of limited
11 English proficiency.

12 (d) Not later than September 1, 2020, the agency and the
13 coordinating board jointly shall submit to the legislature a report
14 on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative
15 or other action.

16 (e) This section expires September 1, 2021.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.