

By: Zaffirini

S.B. No. 656

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transition and employment guide for public school students enrolled in a special education program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 29.0112(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The transition and employment guide must be written in plain language and contain information specific to this state regarding:

(1) transition services;

(2) employment and supported employment services;

(3) social security programs, including the Ticket to Work Program authorized by the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Improvement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. No. 106-170);

(4) community and long-term services and support, including the option to place the student on a waiting list with a governmental agency for public benefits available to the student, such as a waiver program established under Section 1915(c), Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1396n(c));

(5) postsecondary educational programs and services, including the inventory maintained by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 61.0663;

(6) information sharing with health and human services agencies and providers;

1 (7) guardianship and alternatives to guardianship,
2 including a supported decision-making agreement under Chapter
3 [1357](#), Estates Code;

4 (8) self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and
5 self-determination; ~~and~~

6 (9) contact information for all relevant state
7 agencies;

8 (10) financial literacy, including information and
9 curricula on the effective long-term management of financial
10 resources; and

11 (11) financial independence, including:

12 (A) special needs trusts;

13 (B) the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience
14 (ABLE) Program under Subchapter J, Chapter [54](#), authorized under
15 Section 529A, Internal Revenue Code of 1986;

16 (C) the Medicaid buy-in programs implemented
17 under Section [531.02444](#), Government Code; and

18 (D) other work incentive programs.

19 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2020-2021
20 school year.

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