

By: Hughes

S.B. No. 2090

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to inclusion of Bible instruction in the required English language arts curriculum for public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (x) and (y) to read as follows:

(x) In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the English language arts curriculum under Subsection (a)(1)(A), the State Board of Education shall adopt essential knowledge and skills that include instruction on the content, characters, poetry, and narratives of the Bible that are prerequisites to understanding United States and Texas history and contemporary society and culture. In adopting essential knowledge and skills under this subsection, the board:

(1) may not require a student to use a specific translation as the sole text of the Bible and must allow the student to use a different translation from that chosen by the board of trustees of the student's school district or the student's teacher; and

(2) shall ensure:

(A) all applicable federal and state guidelines regarding maintaining religious neutrality and accommodating the diverse religious views, traditions, and perspectives of students in their school district are followed; and

1 (B) a particular religion, nonreligious faith,
2 or religious perspective is not endorsed, favored, promoted,
3 disfavored, or shown hostility.

4 (y) Nothing in Subsection (x) is intended to violate any
5 provision of the United States Constitution, federal law, the Texas
6 Constitution, or any state law.

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020
8 school year.

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