87R12395 BDP-D

By:  Howard H.B. No. 3861

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a task force to study the effect of delayed school start times on students.

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

SECTION 1.  DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1)  "Agency" means the Texas Education Agency.

(2)  "Commissioner" means the commissioner of education.

(3)  "Task force" means the task force established under this Act.

SECTION 2.  TASK FORCE TO STUDY SCHOOL DAY START TIMES. (a) A task force is established under this section to study the effect of school day start times on students in kindergarten through grade 12.

(b)  The commissioner shall appoint members of the task force, including:

(1)  one pediatrician;

(2)  one physician who specializes in sleep disorders;

(3)  one mental health professional who specializes in adolescent health issues;

(4)  one representative of the National Alliance on Mental Illness;

(5)  one representative of the Texas Psychology Association;

(6)  one representative of Every Texan;

(7)  one representative of Raise Your Hand Texas;

(8)  one representative of Start School Later Texas;

(9)  one representative of the Texas Pediatric Society;

(10)  one representative of the Texas School Health Advisory Committee;

(11)  one representative of the Texas Association of School Administrators;

(12)  one representative of the Texas Professional Educators;

(13)  one representative of the Texas School Nurses Organization;

(14)  one representative of the Texas Principals Association;

(15)  one representative of the Texas Association for Pupil Transportation;

(16)  one student enrolled in public school in this state;

(17)  one representative of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry;

(18)  one representative of the American Academy of Pediatrics;

(19)  one representative of the American Academy of Sleep Medicine;

(20)  one representative of the American Medical Association;

(21)  one representative of Goose Creek Consolidated Independent School District;

(22)  one representative of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(23)  one representative of Texas Children's Hospital;

(24)  one representative of Texas Tech University Health Science Center;

(25)  one representative of University of Texas Medical Branch;

(26)  one representative of Circadian Sleep Disorders Network;

(27)  one representative of Sleep Medicine and Neurology Consultants;

(28)  one representative of Children's Health Dallas;

(29)  one representative of the League of Women Voters of Tarrant County;

(30)  one representative of the National Education Association;

(31)  one representative of the National Parent Teacher Association;

(32)  one representative of Deer Park Independent School District; and

(33)  one representative of the Society of Pediatric Nurses.

(c)  The members of the task force shall select the presiding officer of the task force.

(d)  The presiding officer shall call the initial meeting of the task force not later than January 1, 2022. The task force shall meet at the times and places that the presiding officer determines are appropriate. The task force shall adopt rules necessary to fulfill the task force's duties under this section.

(e)  Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the task force.

SECTION 3.  DUTIES OF THE TASK FORCE. The task force shall:

(1)  conduct a study that:

(A)  evaluates the effect of daily school start and end times on students in kindergarten through grade 12;

(B)  considers any negative impacts on public and private school students and families that may arise from delayed daily school start and end times;

(C)  evaluates studies or initiatives relating to school start times that are supported by national education advocacy organizations; and

(D)  reviews any available literature regarding the experience of students in other states that have delayed school day start times;

(2)  prepare an assessment on the effect of delayed school day start times on the health, safety, and academic performance of students; and

(3)  provide recommendations to the agency regarding the feasibility of establishing a pilot program to test delayed school day start times.

SECTION 4.  REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2022, the task force shall deliver a report to the commissioner of education that includes the findings from the study, a summary of information considered for the purposes of the study, and the recommendations on the feasibility of a pilot program.

SECTION 5.  EXPIRATION. The task force is abolished and this Act expires January 1, 2023.

SECTION 6.  EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.