87R10392 MM-D

By:  Guillen H.B. No. 4407

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a parental option to request the return to or retention at a certain grade level for a public school student whose education was disrupted by the coronavirus disease pandemic.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.02124 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.02124.  OPTIONAL GRADE LEVEL RETENTION OR RETURN. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this subchapter, due to the disruption in public education caused by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, a student's parent or legal guardian may submit to the school district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled a written request that for the 2021-2022 school year the student be returned to or retained at the grade level in which the student was enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year.

(b)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school:

(1)  shall grant a request under Subsection (a) received on or before June 30, 2021; and

(2)  may grant a request under Subsection (a) received after June 30, 2021, and before the first day of instruction.

(c)  As soon as practicable after the end of the 2020-2021 school year, each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide written notice regarding the option under this section to the parent or legal guardian of each student enrolled in the district or school.

(d)  Not later than June 30, 2022, each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall report to the agency the number of students who for the 2021-2022 school year were returned to or retained at the grade level in which the student was enrolled during the 2020-2021 school year under this section.

(e)  This section expires September 1, 2022.

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.