

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 855

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a joint study and report by the Texas Education Agency
3 and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board regarding the
4 transition of public school students with disabilities to higher
5 education.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 29.0114 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 29.0114. STUDY REGARDING TRANSITION TO HIGHER
10 EDUCATION FOR STUDENTS WITH DISABILITIES. (a) In this section,
11 "coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
12 Board.

13 (b) The agency and the coordinating board jointly shall
14 conduct a study on the transition to higher education for public
15 school students with disabilities.

16 (c) The study must investigate and identify:

17 (1) the percentage of students enrolled in a special
18 education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, who graduate high
19 school;

20 (2) the percentage of students enrolled in a special
21 education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, who following
22 high school graduation enroll in a public or private institution of
23 higher education;

24 (3) for each disability category identified by the

1 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. Section 1400
2 et seq.):

3 (A) appropriate supports and services for a
4 student who is eligible for services based on that category of
5 disability to facilitate the student's transition to higher
6 education; and

7 (B) whether students eligible for services based
8 on that category of disability currently receive the supports and
9 services identified under Paragraph (A);

10 (4) barriers that exist for students with disabilities
11 to transition to higher education;

12 (5) whether services and accommodations for students
13 with disabilities who enroll in public or private institutions of
14 higher education are accessible; and

15 (6) whether students with disabilities currently
16 receive sufficient and accurate information regarding their civil
17 rights.

18 (d) Not later than September 1, 2022, the agency and the
19 coordinating board shall prepare a report detailing the results of
20 the study under this section and submit to the legislature the
21 report and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

22 (e) This section expires January 1, 2023.

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