

By: Guerra

H.B. No. 2258

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to developing a strategic plan for the improvement and expansion of high-quality bilingual education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.067 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.067. STRATEGIC PLAN TO IMPROVE AND EXPAND BILINGUAL EDUCATION. (a) In this section, "general academic teaching institution" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) The agency, in collaboration with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall develop a strategic plan that sets tangible goals and establishes timelines to:

(1) increase the number of educators certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, in bilingual education instruction;

(2) increase the number of dual language immersion/one-way and two-way program models used in public schools;

(3) educate families and school district employees regarding the importance of bilingual education in early childhood;

(4) adopt a uniform process for:

(A) identifying students in prekindergarten through 12th grade of limited English proficiency;

(B) monitoring the bilingual learning of

1 students in prekindergarten through 12th grade; and

2 (C) collecting data regarding the identification
3 and monitoring under Paragraphs (A) and (B); and

4 (5) increase the number of bilingual and multilingual
5 high school graduates.

6 (c) In developing the strategic plan, the agency:

7 (1) shall consult with appropriate representatives
8 of:

9 (A) general academic teaching institutions;

10 (B) public schools;

11 (C) early childhood education programs; and

12 (D) parents and legal guardians of public school
13 students; and

14 (2) may collaborate with representatives of:

15 (A) state, regional, and local agencies;

16 (B) nonprofit organizations;

17 (C) social services providers;

18 (D) faith-based organizations; and

19 (E) the business community.

20 (d) The agency shall submit the plan developed under this
21 section to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of
22 the house of representatives, and each member of the standing
23 committees of the senate and house of representatives having
24 primary jurisdiction over public education not later than December
25 1, 2022.

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

27 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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