88R9485 PRL-D

By:  Guerra H.B. No. 3304

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Education Agency on the administration of assessment instruments in Spanish to certain public school students in grades six through eight.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter B, Chapter 39, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 39.02303 to read as follows:

Sec. 39.02303.  STUDY ON ADMINISTRATION OF CERTAIN ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS IN SPANISH. (a) In this section, "emergent bilingual student" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.052.

(b)  The agency shall conduct a study regarding the feasibility of administering assessment instruments adopted under Section 39.023 and administered to students in grades six through eight in Spanish for emergent bilingual students whose primary language is Spanish.

(c)  The study must:

(1)  examine the extent to which not administering assessment instruments adopted under Section 39.023 in Spanish to emergent bilingual students in grades six through eight whose primary language is Spanish limits the implementation of dual language immersion/one-way and two-way program models in secondary schools;

(2)  include research regarding how to administer an assessment instrument described by Subdivision (1) in a manner that allows, to the extent practicable, the score an emergent bilingual student receives on the assessment instrument to be statistically useful for comparison, considering the limited number of emergent bilingual students, to performance by students administered the same instrument in English; and

(3)  identify and develop a list of nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment instruments available for administration in Spanish to students enrolled in dual language immersion/one-way and two-way programs.

(d)  Not later than December 1, 2024, the agency shall prepare and submit to the legislature a report on the results of the study and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

(e)  This section expires September 1, 2025.

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, 2023.