

1-1 By: Dutton (Senate Sponsor - West) H.B. No. 1518
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 1, 2003;
1-3 May 6, 2003, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-4 Education; May 22, 2003, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 8, Nays 0;
1-6 May 22, 2003, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1518 By: Shapiro

1-8 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-9 AN ACT

1-10 relating to accountability for public school dropouts and students
1-11 at risk of dropping out of school and to the evaluation of school
1-12 campuses.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Section 29.081(c), Education Code, is amended to
1-15 read as follows:

1-16 (c) Each school district shall evaluate and document the
1-17 effectiveness of the accelerated instruction in reducing any
1-18 disparity in performance on assessment instruments administered
1-19 under Subchapter B, Chapter 39, or disparity in the rates of high
1-20 school completion between students at risk of dropping out of
1-21 school and all other district students. The evaluation shall
1-22 include an analysis of the effectiveness of each program described
1-23 in the campus and district improvement plans for reducing the
1-24 disparities described by this subsection. The commissioner shall
1-25 ensure that each school district complies with this subsection.

1-26 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
1-27 amended by adding Section 29.088 to read as follows:

1-28 Sec. 29.088. DROPOUT DATA OVERSIGHT. The Legislative
1-29 Budget Board, the office of the state auditor, and the comptroller
1-30 shall review the agency's standards and definitions for dropouts
1-31 and students completing school before the agency implements the
1-32 standards and definitions.

1-33 SECTION 3. Sections 42.152(d) and (r), Education Code, are
1-34 amended to read as follows:

1-35 (d) The agency shall systematically evaluate the
1-36 effectiveness of accelerated instruction and support programs
1-37 provided under Section 29.081 for students at risk of dropping out
1-38 of school. The agency shall organize and share the information it
1-39 collects during its evaluation with local districts.

1-40 (r) The commissioner shall adopt rules under which the
1-41 commissioner must grant a one-year exemption from the requirements
1-42 of Subsection (q) [~~(g)~~] to a school district that consistently
1-43 achieves significant reductions in the disparity in performance
1-44 between students described by Section 29.081(d) and all other
1-45 students. The commissioner may not grant an exemption to a district
1-46 that does not make consistent significant progress in reducing its
1-47 dropout rate [in which the group of students who have failed to
1-48 perform satisfactorily in the preceding school year on an
1-49 assessment instrument required under Section 39.023(a), (c), or (l)
1-50 subsequently performs on those assessment instruments at a level
1-51 that meets or exceeds a level prescribed by commissioner rule].
1-52 Each year the commissioner, based on the most recent information
1-53 available, shall determine if a school district is entitled to an
1-54 exemption for the following school year and notify the district and
1-55 the district's board of trustees of that determination.

1-56 SECTION 4. This Act applies beginning with the 2003-2004
1-57 school year.

1-58 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-59 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-60 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-61 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-62 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

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