

By: Stucky

H.B. No. 2519

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on dropout prevention and recovery before the ninth grade.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.919 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.919. MIDDLE GRADES DROPOUT PREVENTION AND RECOVERY STUDY. (a) The agency shall conduct a study to identify the best practices for:

(1) reducing the number of students who drop out of school before entering the ninth grade; and

(2) directing students who drop out of school before entering the ninth grade toward an appropriate educational program.

(b) The study must examine:

(1) current programs and interventions available to:
(A) students who are enrolled in grades four through eight and are at risk of dropping out of school; and

(B) students who have dropped out of school before entering the ninth grade;

(2) barriers to students attempting to reenroll in a school district or open-enrollment charter school after dropping out of school before entering the ninth grade;

(3) best practices in this state and other states for re-engaging students who dropped out of school before entering the

1 ninth grade; and

2 (4) the feasibility of adopting a pilot program to
3 establish an early warning data system beginning with students in
4 the sixth grade to track each student's attendance, behavior, and
5 performance in core subjects.

6 (c) Not later than September 1, 2018, the agency shall
7 submit a report to the legislature that includes the results of the
8 study conducted under this section and any recommendations for
9 legislative or other action.

10 (d) This section expires January 1, 2019.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.