

By: Krause

H.B. No. 3635

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to accountability and standards for districts of innovation.

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

SECTION 1. Section 12A.001, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b), and adding Subsection (d), to read as follows:

(a) Subject to Subsections [~~Subsection~~] (b) and (d), a school district may be designated as a district of innovation in accordance with this chapter.

(b) A school district is eligible for designation as a district of innovation only if the district's most recent performance rating under Section 39.054 reflects at least acceptable performance and the district satisfies eligibility standards adopted by the commissioner under Subsection (d).

(d) The commissioner shall establish objective eligibility and performance standards in addition to those required under subsection (b), including academic performance standards and financial accountability standards. The agency shall post the eligibility standards adopted under this subsection on the agency's internet website.

SECTION 2. Section 12A.003(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) A local innovation plan must:

1 (1) provide for a comprehensive educational program
2 for the district, which program may include:

3 (A) innovative curriculum, instructional
4 methods, and provisions regarding community participation, campus
5 governance, and parental involvement;

6 (B) modifications to the school day or year;

7 (C) provisions regarding the district budget and
8 sustainable program funding;

9 (D) accountability and assessment measures that
10 exceed the requirements of state and federal law; and

11 (E) any other innovations prescribed by the board
12 of trustees; ~~and~~

13 (2) identify requirements imposed by this code that
14 inhibit the goals of the plan and from which the district should be
15 exempted on adoption of the plan, subject to Section 12A.004; and

16 (3) establish performance objectives for the district
17 under the plan.

18 SECTION 3. Section 12A.005, Education Code, is amended by
19 amending Subsections (a) and (c), to read as follows:

20 (a) The board of trustees may not vote on adoption of a
21 proposed local innovation plan unless:

22 (1) the final version of the proposed plan has been
23 available on the district's Internet website for at least 30 days;

24 (2) the board of trustees has notified the
25 commissioner of the board's intention to vote on adoption of the
26 proposed plan; ~~and~~

27 (3) the district-level committee established under

1 Section 11.251 has held a public meeting to consider the final
2 version of the proposed plan and has approved the plan by a majority
3 vote of the committee members, provided that the meeting required
4 by this subdivision may occur immediately before and on the same
5 date as the meeting at which the board intends to vote on adoption
6 of the proposed plan; and

7 (4) the commissioner has notified the board that the
8 district satisfies all eligibility standards adopted by the
9 commissioner.

10 (c) On adoption of a local innovation plan, the district:

11 (1) is designated as a district of innovation under
12 this chapter for the term specified in the plan, subject to Section
13 12A.006;

14 (2) shall begin operation in accordance with the plan;
15 [~~and~~]

16 (3) is exempt from state requirements identified under
17 Section 12A.003(b)(2); and

18 (4) shall notify the commissioner that the district
19 has adopted a local innovation plan.

20 SECTION 4. Section 12A.008, Education Code, is amended by
21 amending Subsections (a) and (c), to read as follows:

22 (a) The commissioner may terminate a district's designation
23 as a district of innovation if the district [~~receives for two~~
24 ~~consecutive school years~~]:

25 (1) receives an unacceptable academic performance
26 rating under Section 39.054;

27 (2) receives an unacceptable financial accountability

1 rating under Section 39.082; [~~or~~]

2 (3) for two consecutive school years, fails to satisfy
3 any eligibility standards established by the commissioner under
4 Section 12A.001 [~~an unacceptable academic performance rating under~~
5 ~~Section 39.054 for one of the school years and an unacceptable~~
6 ~~financial accountability rating under Section 39.082 for the other~~
7 ~~school year~~].

8 (c) The commissioner shall terminate a district's
9 designation as a district of innovation if the district receives
10 for two [~~three~~] consecutive school years:

11 (1) an unacceptable academic performance rating under
12 Section 39.054;

13 (2) an unacceptable financial accountability rating
14 under Section 39.082; or

15 (3) any combination of one or more unacceptable
16 ratings under Subdivision (1) and one or more unacceptable ratings
17 under Subdivision (2).

18 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.