

By: Perry

S.B. No. 1210

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an advisory committee to review special education programs available in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.0061 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.0061. SPECIAL EDUCATION PROGRAM REVIEW ADVISORY COMMITTEE. (a) In this section, "committee" means the special education program review advisory committee established under this section.

(b) The special education program review advisory committee is established under this section to review special education services and procedures in public schools.

(c) The committee is composed of 12 members, appointed as follows:

(1) four members appointed by the governor;

(2) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

and

(3) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

(d) In making appointments under Subsection (c), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure the committee includes at least two members who are related to a child who receives special

1 education services. The committee must also include stakeholders
2 with relevant experience with children who receive special
3 education services.

4 (e) The governor shall designate the presiding officer of
5 the committee.

6 (f) Members of the committee shall be appointed not later
7 than October 1, 2017.

8 (g) The committee must meet at least four times at the call
9 of the presiding officer. Committee members may participate
10 remotely in a committee meeting through a telephone conference
11 call.

12 (h) The agency shall provide administrative support to the
13 committee.

14 (i) The committee shall conduct a review of:

15 (1) the procedure by which a child gains access to
16 special education programs;

17 (2) the admission, review, and dismissal committee
18 process;

19 (3) agency procedures for handling complaints
20 regarding special education programs;

21 (4) agency training and resources related to the
22 education of children who have a traumatic brain injury; and

23 (5) the required qualifications for a teacher's aide
24 that is assigned to a special education program.

25 (j) Not later than September 1, 2018, the committee shall
26 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and each member of
27 the legislature a report that includes:

1 (1) a description of the activities of the committee;
2 (2) the committee's findings in the review under
3 Subsection (i); and
4 (3) recommendations for improvements to special
5 education programs in public schools.

6 (k) The committee is abolished and this section expires on
7 December 1, 2018.

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