

SUBJECT: Monitoring compliance with dyslexia screening, reading diagnosis programs

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, M. González,
K. King, Meyer, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

2 absent — Dutton, Sanford

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 29 — 31-0

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 1199:*
For — Courtney Hoffman, Academic Language Therapy Association-Texas; Vickie RabbWiggins; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jacquie Benestante, Autism Society of Texas; Kyle Piccola, The Arc of Texas; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; Lisa Flores, Easterseals Central Texas; Shannon Meroney and Serenity Owens, Impact Dyslexia; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent, Martha Leal, Texas School Counselor Association; Christine Broughal, Texans for Special Education Reform; and seven individuals.)

Against — None

On — Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Von Byer and Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency; Ronda Mccauley)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 7.028 limits the Texas Education Agency's (TEA) monitoring of compliance with requirements applicable to certain processes or programs provided by a school district, campus, program, or school granted charters, including the program for screening and treatment of dyslexia and related disorders. TEA can monitor only for specified purposes, including to ensure compliance with federal law and regulations

and public school system accountability.

Concerned parties have suggested procedures be developed to ensure that public school districts are complying with reading diagnosis requirements and treatment for dyslexia and related disorders.

DIGEST: SB 2075 would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to use rules to develop procedures to audit and monitor school districts to ensure compliance with requirements for screening for dyslexia and related disorders and reading diagnosis programs. The procedures would have to include identifying problems that districts experience in complying with program requirements and developing reasonable and appropriate strategies to address noncompliance.

The bill also would require school districts to notify the parent or guardian of a student diagnosed with or at risk of dyslexia or a related disorder of the program maintained by the Texas State Library and Archives Commission allowing students with reading disabilities to borrow audiobooks free of charge.

TEA would be required to implement the provisions of the bill only if the Legislature appropriated money specifically for that purpose. If the Legislature did not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, TEA could, but would not be required to, implement the bill using other appropriations available for that purpose.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$914,000 to general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.