

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R7791 CAS-D

S.B. 1102
By: Barrientos
Education
3/26/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, there is not a method to determine what exactly happens to students who disappear from Texas schools. The current tracking system notes students that leave as if they transfer to another high school, failing to verify that the student has enrolled at another institution where the student can receive a high school diploma. This creates misleading statistics regarding the high school dropout rate in Texas. As proposed, S.B. 1102 requires that a comprehensive survey be conducted to obtain information concerning persons who drop out of school in order to gain a more accurate measure of the dropout situation in Texas.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. (a) Requires the Office of Survey Research (office) in the College of Communication at The University of Texas at Austin, in accordance with this section and in consultation with the Legislative Budget Board and one or more nonprofit organizations designated by the office from among certain nonprofit organizations, to design and conduct a thorough, statewide, scientific, statistical survey to obtain information concerning persons who drop out of school and prepare a report based on that information.

(b) Requires the persons conducting the survey required under Subsection (a) to poll certain persons and attempt to obtain certain information

(c) Requires the results of the survey to:

- C be compared with official Texas Education Agency (agency) dropout data;
- C indicate variations in results in various regions of the state;
- C be used by the agency in developing policies to address the needs of students at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by Section 29.081, Education Code, including, to the extent necessary, policies to address the specific needs of students in various regions of the state;
- C be compiled by the office into a report, together with certain information required under this subsection and any recommendations arising from the results, and submitted to the legislature not later than January 31, 2003.

(d) Requires the agency to cooperate with the office as necessary for the office to carry out its duties under this Act.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.