

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 870
By: Cain
Education
4/6/1999
Committee Report (Substituted)

DIGEST

Currently, parents or guardians of special education students are provided with a brochure explaining the procedural safeguards in the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act as required by federal law. The brochure does not include the information about the special education process which parents need in order to effectively participate in their child's Admissions Review and Dismissal meetings. C.S.S.B. 870 would establish provisions regarding the right of parents to information concerning special education.

PURPOSE

As proposed, C.S.S.B. 870 establishes provisions regarding the right of parents to information concerning special education.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

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

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 26, Education Code, by adding Section 26.0081, as follows:

Sec. 26.0081. RIGHT TO INFORMATION CONCERNING SPECIAL EDUCATION. Requires the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to produce and provide to school districts sufficient copies of a comprehensive, easily understood document that explains the process by which an individualized educational program is developed for a student in a special education program and the rights and responsibilities of a parent concerning the process. Requires the document to contain information the parent needs to effectively participate in an admission review, and dismissal committee meeting for the child. Provides that TEA will ensure that each school district provides the document required to the parent under certain conditions.

SECTION 2. Requires TEA to ensure that each school district provides the required document not later than June 1, 2001, to the parent of or the person standing in parental relation to each child participating in the district's special education program.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.

SUMMARY OF COMMITTEE CHANGES

SECTION 1.

Amends Chapter 26, Education Code, by adding Section 26.0081, regarding the right to information concerning special education. Deletes proposed SECTION 1, regarding certain information for the parents of special education students.

SECTION 2.

Requires the TEA to ensure delivery of proper documentation to certain parents concerning the school district's special education programs. Deletes proposed SECTION 2, regarding the

development of a statewide plan regarding certain services to children with disabilities.

SECTION 3.

Effective date: September 1, 1999, rather than upon passage.

SECTION 4.

Emergency clause.