

CHAPTER 366

H.B. No. 1686

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program for the inclusion of students with disabilities in the regular classroom.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter N, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.513 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.513. PILOT PROGRAM FOR INCLUSION. The Central Education Agency shall establish procedures and criteria for the allocation of funds appropriated under Section

16.151(m) of this code to school districts selected by the agency to establish a pilot program for the inclusion of students with disabilities in the regular classroom so that those students may receive an appropriate free public education in the least restrictive environment.

SECTION 2. Section 16.151, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (m) to read as follows:

(m) From the total amount of funds appropriated for special education under this section, the commissioner of education shall withhold an amount specified in the General Appropriations Act which for the 1994–1995 biennium may not exceed \$2 million, and distribute that amount for programs under Section 21.513 of this code. The program established under that section is required only in school districts in which the program is financed by funds distributed under this section and any other funds available for the program. After deducting the amount withheld under this subsection from the total amount appropriated for special education, the commissioner of education shall reduce each district's allotment proportionately and shall allocate funds to each district accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 1993–1994 school year.

SECTION 4. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended, and that this Act take effect and be in force from and after its passage, and it is so enacted.

Passed by the House on May 4, 1993, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate on May 19, 1993: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved May 31, 1993.

Effective Aug. 30, 1993, 90 days after date of adjournment.