AMENDMENTS TO LB651

(Amendments to Linehan amendments, AM1226)

Introduced by Harr, 8.

1. Strike amendments 1 through 8 and insert the following new amendment:

1. Strike the original sections and all amendments thereto and insert the following new sections:

Section 1. Each school district shall offer a reading intervention program for the purpose of ensuring that students can read at or above grade level at the end of third grade. Such reading intervention program shall:

1. Provide development in phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and reading comprehension;
2. Monitor the reading progress of each student's reading skills throughout the school year and adjust instruction accordingly;
3. Provide evidenced-based intervention to all students in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, and third grade who are identified as having a reading deficiency based on classroom assessments selected by the district and administered at least once each semester until the reading deficiency is eliminated; and
4. Be implemented during regular school hours within, or in addition to, the regular reading instruction;

Sec. 2. The school of any student enrolled in a school district who, in kindergarten, first grade, second grade, or third grade, exhibits a reading deficiency based upon the classroom assessments selected by the district shall:

1. Notify such student's parents or guardians of the reading deficiency in writing. Such written notification may include report cards documenting the deficiency, may be provided at parent-teacher
conferences, and shall include the following:

(a) The identification of the student’s reading deficiency; and
(b) A description of the evidence-based reading interventions and targeted supports provided to students in the school to address reading proficiency and remedy the identified area or areas of reading deficiency; and

(2) Provide strategies for parents or guardians to use at home to help their students succeed in reading. Notification can include report cards and parent-teacher conferences.

Sec. 3. Students enrolled in a school district who are identified as having a reading deficiency at the end of third grade shall receive continued reading intervention strategies until the reading deficiency is remedied or as directed pursuant to an individualized education plan, a plan developed in compliance with section 504 of the federal Rehabilitation Act, 20 U.S.C. 794, as such act existed on the effective date of this act, or a plan developed for students in the school’s English language learner program.

Sec. 4. Students enrolled in a school district may be retained in third grade for an additional year when it is deemed to be appropriate by the school district staff based on more than just reading achievement and with the permission of the student’s parents or guardians.