83rd Texas Legislature: HB 617 Bill Summary

Topic: Relating to transition and employment services for public school students enrolled in special education programs.

This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year and shall be known as the Ricky Broussard Act.

The bill requires TEA to:
- Develop (with assistance from Health and Human Services Commission) a transition and employment guide which must contain information specific to this state regarding:
  - Transition services;
  - Employment and supported employment services;
  - Social security programs;
  - Community and long-term services and support;
  - Postsecondary educational programs and services;
  - Information sharing with health and human services agencies and providers;
  - Guardianship and alternatives to guardianship;
  - Self-advocacy, person-directed planning, and self-determination; and
  - Contact information for all relevant state agencies.
- Produce the guide in electronic format and post on the agencies website;
- Update the guide at least once every two years;
- Develop minimum training guidelines for the transition and employment designee.

The bill requires districts or shared services arrangements to:
- Post the transition and employment guide on the district’s website;
- Provide written information and if necessary assistance to a parent regarding how to access the electronic guide at:
  - The first ARD at which transition is discussed, or
  - The first ARD that occurs after the date the guide becomes available, if a student has already had an ARD meeting to discuss transition.
- Designate at least one employee as the designee on transition and employment services for special education students.
  - This person is responsible for providing information and resources about effective transition planning, services and interagency coordination to ensure that local school staff communicate and collaborate with:
    - Students with disabilities and their parents; and
    - As appropriate, local and regional staff of the Health and Human Services Commission, Department of Aging and Disability Services, Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, Department of State Health Services, and the Department of Family and Protective Services.

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