



HOUSE PUB ED 4.20.21

The House Public Education Committee met Tuesday and heard 26 bills on topics relating to bilingual education, reporting requirements related to nursing staff, and school athletics participation rights among others. TSTA supported several bills this week, including two related to supporting and growing bilingual educators and dual language programming.

TSTA REGISTERED SUPPORT FOR TEN BILLS THIS WEEK:

- **HB 278 by Canales** (D-Edinburg), which would require TEA to review the criminal histories of individuals being appointed by the commissioner to replace an elected school board as a board of managers.
- **HB 424 by King** (R-Hemphill), which would revise the TEKS to narrow the number and scope of student expectations to ensure they can be taught and learned by the average student in one year; and would limit required spending on instructional materials by districts to just 75% of the SBOE proclamation, thereby reserving 25% to purchase other discretionary materials such as technology.
- **HB 517 by Beckley** (D-Carrollton), which would protect the workload of custodial staff.
- **HB 1613 by Lopez** (D-San Antonio), which would extend the deadline for completing reading academies to the 2023-2024 school year and would permit current teachers who have passed the STR certification exam to be exempt.
- **HB 1744 by Guerra** (D-Mission), which would require the agency to develop a CTE program of study that would prepare and assist students in pursuing a career in bilingual education.
- **HB 1754 by Hernandez** (D-Houston), which would require that ID cards issued by schools to students in grades 6-12 must have the contact information for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline.
- **HB 2258 by Guerra**, which would require the development of a strategic plan that would aim to increase the number of dual language programs.
- **HB 2846 by Coleman** (D-Houston), which would require schools to provide written notice to families regarding whether or not a full-time nurse is assigned to the school during regular instructional hours.
- **HB 3456 by White** (R-Hillister), which would protect school districts' foundation school program being subject to any budget reductions requested by the LBB or governor.
- **HB 3888 by Morales-Shaw** (D-Houston), which would protect teachers from sanctions for resigning under a term of contract during a declared state of disaster.

TSTA OPPOSED TWO BILLS:

- **HB 4042 by Hefner** (R-Mt. Pleasant), which would require a student to participate in school-sponsored athletics based on biological sex as determined at birth.
- **HB 4525 by Gates** (R-Richmond), which would require the SBOE to approve CTE courses that are offered online.

OTHER BILLS CONSIDERED IN THIS WEEK'S HEARING:

- **HB 586 by Cole** (D-Austin), which would authorize a school district to borrow money from and enter into various agreements with the Texas Public Finance Authority and would establish the school district equipment and improvement fund.
- **HB 605 by Gervin-Hawkins** (D-San Antonio), which would require schools to adopt a healthy and safe water plan and to post current results of water lead tests to their website.
- **HB 1206 by Guillen** (D-Rio Grande City), which would provide districts the flexibility to use the instructional materials allotment to purchase hotspots, wifi, broadband and other technological equipment necessary to facilitate internet access.
- **HB 1302 by Guillen**, which would update the academic accountability rating to recognize achievement outside STAAR test scores in grades K-12. This would include the skipping of a grade or receiving credit for a course by exam and registration in pre-IB/pre-AP courses.
- **HB 1726 by Allison** (R-San Antonio), which would require PEIMS rating on instances of bullying in schools.
- **HB 2688 by Gary VanDeaver** (R-New Boston), which would require any trustee who votes on a superintendent severance within the same year of renewing a contract would be required to stand for reelection.
- **HB 2721 by Lucio III** (D-Brownsville), which would prohibit a student from participating in any extracurricular or UIL-sponsored activity if a student assaults a referee.
- **HB 2769 by Campos** (D-San Antonio), which would require SBOE to adopt TEKS that include coding for video games.
- **HB 3033 by Klick** (R-Fort Worth), which would require PEIMS reporting on students transferred from schools for mental health emergency detention.
- **HB 3489 by Parker** (R-Flower Mound), relating to the development of guidelines for the use of digital devices in public schools.
- **HB 3862 by Gary VanDeaver**, which would provide school boards a mechanism to vote out a toxic and non-compliant member with $\frac{3}{4}$ vote.
- **HB 4124 by Hinojosa** (D-Austin), which would prioritize military-connected students in the enrollment of special-purpose school district.
- **HB 4198 by Slaton** (R-Royse City), would allow districts the option to exempt students from the administration of certain assessments.
- **HB 4509 by Bonnen** (R-Friendswood), which would add to instruction related to informed patriotism the requirement that students study founding documents and removes the requirement that students learn to be "active citizens."