



HOUSE PUB ED 5.4.21

The House Public Education Committee met Tuesday May 4 for just two hours and heard seven bills, six of which were bills that come over from the Senate. The Committee also took votes on three pending Senate bills, passing two out. In considering SB 29 by Perry (R-Lubbock), a contentious bill that would require public school students to participate in UIL activities and events according to their biological sex assigned at birth, the committee vote yielded 6 ayes (Allison, K. Bell, Buckley, K. King, Lozano, and VanDeaver), 5 nays (Allen, Bernal, González, Meza, Talarico), 1 present-not-voting (Dutton). Rep. Huberty was absent for the vote. Because SB 29 did not earn favorable votes from a majority of the committee, the bill will not proceed.

TSTA did not oppose any bills in committee this week and registered support for two.

TSTA REGISTERED SUPPORT FOR TWO BILLS THIS WEEK:

SB 462 by Lucio (D-Brownsville), which would reimburse districts for transporting meals and instructional materials to students during a declared state of disaster.

HB 4064 by Meza (D-Irving), which would include and define “harassment” in bullying policies including language that would protect against the bullying or harassment of LGBTQ students.

OTHER BILLS CONSIDERED IN THIS WEEK’S HEARING:

SB 226 by Paxton (R-McKinney), which would require teachers be trained in virtual teaching and learning as a part of their educator preparation required for certification.

SB 347 by Paxton (R-McKinney), which would make the recommendations made by the local school health advisory councils subject to the open records act.

SB 797 by Hughes (R-Mineola), which would require districts and public colleges to prominently display a durable poster or framed copy of the US Motto, “In God We Trust” if the poster is donated to the school.

SB 1063 by Alvarado (D-Houston), which would add a social studies course that would be one semester economics and one semester personal financial literacy and would satisfy the economics requirement for graduation.

SB 1522 by Taylor (R-Friendswood), which would limit the number of instructional days during a calamity for which districts can be held harmless for average daily attendance.

BILLS VOTED OUT OF COMMITTEE:

SB 179 by Lucio (D-Brownsville), which would require that school counselors spend at least 80 percent of their time performing statutorily defined duties related to counseling. TSTA supported this bill, and it passed out of committee 8-1 (Rep. K. Bell voting nay). The House companion for this bill is HB 589 by M. González (D-Clint).

SB 879 by Lucio (D-Brownsville) would designate any school serving at least 60 percent of students who are age 16 or older as dropout recovery and therefore eligible for the state's alternative accountability system. TSTA remained neutral on this bill in both the Senate and House Education Committees. SB 879 passed unanimously out of committee. The House companion for this bill is HB 998 by Dutton (D-Houston).