



SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE 5.4.21

The Senate Education Committee met on May 4th to consider a number of bills authored in both chambers.

TSTA strongly opposed [Senate Bill 487](#) by Hughes, which is a bill that would shield charter schools from oversight and accountability while reducing local control. Similar to provisions in the self-proclaimed “Charter School Equity” Bill, SB 28 by Bettencourt, SB 487 would require local governments to exempt charter schools from zoning, permitting, code compliance and development laws that private entities would otherwise be subject to. It would prohibit a local community from enforcing any policy that prohibits charter chains, owned by private interests, from operating at any location within any zoning district across the state.

TSTA SUPPORTED THE FOLLOWING BILLS:

- [HB 1603](#) by Huberty: would remove the expiration date from the Individual Graduation Committee Law.
- [HB 699](#) by Rosenthal: would ensure students with severe or life-threatening illness or related treatments do not face punishment by way of unexcused absences, truancy or grade promotion for that illness or treatment.
- [HB 725](#) by Patterson: would expand Pre-K eligibility to kids who were in foster care outside of the state before moving to Texas.

THE FOLLOWING BILLS WERE ALSO HEARD:

- [HB 785](#) by Allen: would require a review at least annually of behavior improvement or behavioral intervention plans for students with disabilities who were receiving special education services and require a behavioral assessment when a disciplinary action regarding such a student resulted in a change in the student's placement under federal law.
- [HB 1147](#) by Huberty: would add enlistment in the Texas National Guard to the military readiness indicator for the college, career and military readiness outcomes bonus in the Texas school finance system.