HB 2  Zerwas, John(R)  Relating to making supplemental appropriations and giving direction and adjustment authority regarding appropriations.

Remarks:  House Engrossed: This bill is a $1.1 billion supplemental appropriations bill for the 2016-17 biennium. There is not funding for public education in this legislation. It uses a mixture of matching federal funds and general revenue. The bill provides $930 million in GR for the Medicaid shortfall and an additional $200 million for various programs such as family protective and juvenile justice services. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-19-17 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Finance

HB 16  Lozano, Jose(R)  Relating to sexual assault, family violence, and stalking at public and private postsecondary educational institutions.

Last Action:  5-17-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Higher Education

HB 17  Lozano, Jose(R)  Relating to the establishment of the Texas Higher Education Innovation Accelerator for public institutions of higher education.

Companions:  HB 3610  (Identical)
            3-30-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

Last Action:  5-19-17 S Committee action pending Senate Higher Education

HB 21  Huberty, Dan(R)  Taylor, Larry(R)  Relating to the public school finance system.

Remarks:  House Engrossed and Senate Committee Substitute: While the bill will add additional funding to the system through an increase to the basic allotment, the method of finance for this increase is twofold: eliminate an estimated $1.7 billion in specific program funding (transportation and high school allotment being the largest) and delay the FSP payment from August to September, which will allow the state to save an estimated $1.875 billion next biennium.

By eliminating certain programs and freeing-up general revenue through the payment delay, HB 21 is able to increase the basic allotment from $5,140 to $5,350 and add additional funding to several other programs (a new dyslexia weight, expansion of CTE courses, and an increased bilingual weight).
Some of the main elements of HB 21 by Huberty as adopted by the House include:

• Eliminates the transportation allotment (approximately $680 million for the biennium)
• Eliminates the high school allotment (approximately $750 million for the biennium)
• Eliminates the Chapter 41 1992-93 revenue level hold harmless (approximately $53 million for the biennium)
• Establishes a new weight of 0.10 multiplied by the adjusted allotment for students with dyslexia or related disorders
• Increases the bilingual weight from 0.10 to 0.11
• Includes "technology applications" courses and eight grade CTE courses in those eligible for the CTE weight
• Establishes a financial hardship transition program of $125 million in 2017-18 and $34 million in 2018-19 to offset losses from features of the bill or the end of ASATR
• Begins a six year phase-in that would eliminate the distinction in the small school district adjustment within the Foundation School Program
• Intends to increase the Basic Allotment from $5,140 to $5,350 in the appropriations bill

The Senate Committee Substitute had several changes. The first is a narrowing of the districts that might benefit from the financial hardship grants to those spending no more than 110% of state average per student, and limiting the grant's effects to a tax rate of $1.00.

The second change is the addition of Education Savings Accounts, limited to students with a disability covered by IDEA or Section 504. Students must have attended a public school for the entire previous year at the time of receiving the voucher. The amount of the ESA voucher would be 90% of state average spending per student, and there are apparently other stipulations related to the disposition of the "savings" achieved by the state.

The third is that the Senate substitute no longer uses the payment delay provision.

Effective date: September 1, 2017

**Remarks:**

House engrossed: This bill requires the commissioner to apply various sanctions based on domain-level ratings among the school progress (which is the primary driver), student achievement and school climate domains in a revised state accountability system. For example: domain-level results are a required consideration in the determination of district accreditation status. An open-enrollment charter is subject to revocation if the charter has received unacceptable performance ratings in the school progress domain for 3 preceding years, or any combination of less than satisfactory financial ratings and unsatisfactory school progress domain ratings in that same period of time. Districts of innovation may have that status terminated by the commissioner for any combination of unsatisfactory school progress domain ratings and unacceptable financial accountability ratings in 2 consecutive years. District annexation may occur based on 2 consecutive years of unacceptable school progress.
domain ratings. A school is identified as Public Education Grant (PEG) eligible if that school receives unacceptable ratings in both the student achievement domain and the school progress domain in a given year. The bill clarifies and expands the required responses to identification of a school or district as having a high dropout rate; it authorizes such schools to enter into partnerships with a public junior college to fulfill the plan. The assignment of campus intervention teams, requirement for turn-around plans, etc., are determined by ratings in the school progress domain. In adopting rules to administer the state accountability system, the commissioner is required to solicit input statewide from various stakeholder groups. The bill exempts committees established pursuant to Chapter 39 from government statutes pertaining to state agency advisory committees. The bill reduces the number of domains in the accountability system from 5 down to 3: student achievement, school progress, and school climate, as noted earlier. It maintains domain letter grades of A – F, but unlike current law, does not require an overall rating to be assigned to schools and districts. The bill differentiates between letter grades of "D" and "F", and delays implementation of school letter grades until August 2020. In SYs 2017-18 and 2018-19, the commissioner must assign accountability ratings in keeping with the 2016 Accountability Manual; the only changes allowed are with regard to dates and deadlines as necessary, and with technical details as required by federal law. The commissioner must announce domain standards by September 30 annually, or as soon as possible after that date. The commissioner is required to obtain input from educators, parents, and business/industry leaders, in establishing the standards. In the student achievement domain, indicators for all campuses and districts include 1) performance on STAAR tests at the satisfactory and college readiness standards; 2) if available under commissioner rules, performance on locally selected alternative assessments; and 3) additional achievement indicators that are not related to STAAR test performance. These non-STAAR test based measures in the student achievement domain for high schools and districts with high schools include: participation in UIL activities, completion of certain enrichment courses, completion of certain dual enrollment courses, high school graduation rates, completion of associates degrees while enrolled in high school, early graduation, and several more. Middle and junior high schools also have additional, non-STAAR-test based indicators in the student achievement domain: performance on AP, pre-IB, college admissions or similar assessments; dropout rates; and participation in UIL A+ events. A safety net is established for campuses or districts that do not offer a program in which students can earn associates degrees while completing high school. In the school progress domain, indicators for districts and campuses generally include: students meeting standards for annual improvement on STAAR & STAAR Alt. 2, TELPAS, and to the extent available, any alternative assessments in rule; successful exit from bilingual or special language programs; promotion rates for grades 1-8 and first-time 9th graders; participation in certain assessments (middle/junior/6-12 campuses only); and, an evaluation of performance relative to "like" districts or campuses based on characteristics that include student socioeconomic status, enrollment size, community attributes, property wealth per student in WADA; and
access to programs, etc., that promote college and career readiness. A safeguard in current law, for the highest performing schools, is maintained for the school progress domain in HB 22. The commissioner is required to determine feasibility of including a progress indicator for students served in a district's special education program. If such an indicator is *not* adopted, then the commissioner is required to report to the legislature by Dec. 1, 2022, regarding the feasibility study. In the school climate domain, indicators include the three self-selected community and student engagement ratings (CaSE) established in HB 2804, results from a statewide school climate survey (if a feasibility study supports this), and other non-STAAR-test based measures such as successful completion of: endorsements; coherent sequences of career and technical or fine arts courses; character education programs; teacher quality and retention measures, and more. The commissioner is required to determine feasibility of incorporating school climate survey data into the accountability system by SY 2022-23. The decision must be based on a three-year period: initial implementation in SY 2019-20, followed by two years of reporting results (SYs 2020-2021 and 2021-2022). If feasible, then the survey is to be administered to administrators, students, and parents. The commissioner may adopt rules to determine the climate survey format, items, administration window and procedures, and so on. The state can contract with a third party to implement the climate survey. A joint legislative committee must contract with a private third party to administer a teachers' engagement survey to gauge their satisfaction, estimate programs available to and being used by students, and assess the use of school resources, including time and personnel. The joint committee must determine the survey items, format, and data collection methods that will ensure teacher anonymity. The committee is to take "all necessary action" to have teacher focus groups review the survey items for clarity and scope. Results of the survey are to be provided directly to the joint committee, and the third-party contractor is expressly prohibited from providing the results to TEA or any other entity. The joint committee is responsible for analyzing and publishing the results. The commissioner is required to consider participation rates in the survey in determining "achievement and performance" ratings. The commissioner is required to adopt a method by which performance of students who have transferred for the first time into Texas public schools, from out of state, is excluded from determining ratings. Exclusion or inclusion of certain records from dropout calculations is expanded: if a repeat dropout graduates, then the record is included; records of students who first enrolled in Texas public schools as 11th or 12th graders are excluded. Districts must report all data required for the accountability system, including data as may be necessary for the teacher survey. In evaluating the student achievement or school progress domains, the commissioner is required to consider student performance disaggregated by race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, students who have limited English proficiency, and students served in special education. A domain rating may be adjusted upward once, by no more than one level, based on the disaggregated data. In the student achievement domain, STAAR test performance cannot contribute more than 50 percent of the weight to the domain rating. Improvements on tests may not contribute more than 50 percent of the weight to
the school progress domain rating. The selected CaSE ratings must contribute at least 50 percent of the weight in the school climate domain rating. Three-year averaging of results is available only to help determine ratings when limited data are available for the accountability calculations. The commissioner must use a method to evaluate performance in which it is mathematically possible for all districts and campuses to receive an "A" rating (no quota-based or percentile rank based methodology would be allowed). The commissioner, in collaboration with stakeholders, is to develop standardized language of not more than 250 words for each domain, to describe annual status of a district and campus relative to the domain performances that determined the domain ratings. Each year, the commissioner must provide each school district a document that explains accountability measures, methods and procedures to be used that school year to assign ratings; the document must be in a format that is easy for districts to distribute to parents and members of the public. With regard to the requirement that schools rated as unacceptable under the school progress domain for 2 consecutive years submit a turnaround plan to TEA, the bill introduces a new set of procedures. Specifically, the commissioner is required to review turn-around plans by June 15 annually, and approve or reject the plans in writing. If a turnaround plan is rejected, the commissioner must list the specific concerns that caused the rejection. Affected districts must revise their plans, request assistance from agency staff, and submit revised plans by August 15. The commissioner must advise the affected districts of a final decision by September 1. In providing assistance to district that must modify its turnaround plan, the agency is prohibited from requiring district or school board members to participate in any initiative that does not directly relate to the concerns identified in the commissioner's written statement of rejection. TEA is required to model results of the revised accountability system two more times for the legislature, once by December 1, 2018, and again by December 1, 2019. Effective date: If passed, the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017, but most of the requirements would not apply until SY 2019-20.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill creates a grant program for school districts and charter schools that provide innovative services to students ages 3 to nine with autism. The program would have to occupy a separate building and have its own budget and principal. It would also have to incorporate evidence-based design and the use of empirical data on student achievement and improvement. The bill creates some flexibility for the program not available to typical school districts and charter schools. The program would provide up to $1 million for up to 10 school programs beginning in 2018-19. The commissioner would report the results of the grant program by December 31, 2021. The program would expire September 1, 2024. If the bill receives a two-thirds vote, it would become immediately effective, otherwise it would go into effect September 1, 2017.
**HB 28**  
Bonnen, Dennis (R)  
Relating to the use of certain surplus state revenue to phase out the franchise tax and to the expiration of that tax.

**Remarks:**  
As passed by House: The bill phases out the franchise tax by lowering rates each biennium based on the ending balance of funds available for certification of the state budget, an estimated $750 million per year starting in 2020. The bill would require the Comptroller after September 1, but before December 15 of each odd numbered year, to determine the ending cash balance of General Revenue-Related funds available for certification for the preceding biennium. The Comptroller would be required to determine franchise tax rates that if applied beginning January 1 of the following year are estimated to yield an amount of revenue for the state fiscal biennium in which the determination is made equal to the lesser of the ending cash balance or $3.5 billion Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**  
5-19-17 S Meeting set for 10:00 A.M., E1.036, Senate Finance

**HB 61**  
Guillen, Ryan (D)  
Relating to consideration under the public school accountability system of performance on assessment instruments by certain students formerly receiving special education services.

**Remarks:**  
House engrossed: The bill requires TEA to use ESSA-compliant high school graduation rates in Domain IV of the state accountability system. A new indicator is added to Domain IV for elementary and middle/junior high schools: the percentage of students who received special education services in prior year per PEIMS, and who are enrolled at the same campus but not receiving special education services in the current year per PEIMS, who achieve satisfactory performance on state tests in grades 3-8. The term "satisfactory performance" is qualified with the phrase, "for those students, as determined by commissioner rule." The implication is that the standard may vary from that which is applicable to all students who were never served in special education programs. The bill also adds an analogous district-level indicator to the post-secondary readiness distinction designation. Effective date: If passed, the bill would apply to SY 2017-18.

**Last Action:**  
5-18-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

**HB 136**  
Bell, Cecil (R)  
Relating to inclusion of career and technology education and workforce training in the mission of public education.

**Remarks:**  
House engrossed: The bill clarifies and expands the codified objectives of public education. Objective 4 is clarified to include students' preparedness for postsecondary activities (employment, workforce training and enrollment in institutions of higher education). New objective 11 requires the SBOE, TEA and the commissioner to assist districts and charters in providing career and technology education and effective workforce training opportunities to students. Effective date: If passed with two-thirds vote in each house, the bill takes immediate effect; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.
**Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

**HB 156**  
**Raymond, Richard(D)**  
Relating to establishing a pilot program in designated public high schools in certain municipalities for placement of students in Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps programs as an alternative to placement.

**Companions:**  
**HB 522**  
Raymond, Richard(D)  
(Refiled from 84R Session)

**Remarks:**  
As filed: The bill creates a pilot program in Laredo that will allow high school students in no more than two high schools to be placed in a Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps program instead of a DAEP or JJAEP. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds vote in each chamber and being in the spring semester of the 2017-2018 school year.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**HB 168**  
**Lucio III, Eddie(D)**  
Relating to creating a voluntary program to recognize licensed before-school and after-school programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity.

**Companions:**  
**SB 757**  
Menendez, Jose(D)  
(Identical)

**Remarks:**  
House Engrossed: The bill requires the Texas Department of Health to develop a voluntary program for recognizing licensed before- and after-school programs that promote healthy eating and physical activity. Effective date: January 1, 2018.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Health and Human Services

**HB 223**  
**Howard, Donna(D)**  
Relating to use of compensatory education allotment funding to provide assistance to students at risk of dropping out of school who are pregnant or who are parents.

**Remarks:**  
As passed by the House committee: This bill provides authorization to use compensatory education allotment funds to provide child care services to student parents, or to provide a life skills program. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 4-27-17 S Received in the Senate

**HB 264**  
**Hernandez, Ana(D)**  
**Garcia, Sylvia(D)**  
Relating to public outreach materials to foster awareness of certain public school curriculum requirements.

**Companions:**  
**SB 1850**  
Garcia, Sylvia(D)  
(Identical)

**Remarks:**  
House engrossed: The bill extends to September 1, 2020 the requirement that the state prepare material to inform students about Texas graduation plan requirements and options. However, those materials no longer are required to mention the Texas B-On-Time loan program. Effective date: Immediately with two-thirds vote in each house; if otherwise passed, Sept. 1, 2017.
**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Companions:**

- **SB 1150**
  - Buckingham, Dawn (F)(R)  (Identical)
  - 3- 7-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate State Affairs

**Remarks:**

As filed: Each proposition on the ballot must identify the name of the authority ordering the election on the measure and assign a number to the measure that corresponds to the order in which it is placed on the ballot. The secretary of state shall prescribe procedures necessary to implement. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

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**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

**Remarks:**

As filed: The bill would require a school district to develop security guidelines for schools that are used as a polling place. The school district will be required to submit it to the local law enforcement agency; furthermore, the board and the election administrator must file an affidavit with the secretary of state confirming the security guidelines. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

**Companions:**

- **SB 1041**
  - Buckingham, Dawn (F)(R)  (Identical)
  - 3- 6-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Criminal Justice

**Remarks:**

As filed: This bill would prohibit certain sex offenders from residing on the campus of a public or private institution of higher education. Effective date: Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

**Remarks:**

As passed from committee: The bill extends free prekindergarten to children of a peace officer, firefighter or emergency medical first responder who are seriously injured or killed in the line of duty. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds vote in each house and applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

**Last Action:** 4-24-17 S Received in the Senate

**Remarks:**

House Engrossed: This bill provides guidelines to allow a school district to donate excess food from its meal programs or food drive to a non-profit organization.
Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds vote and applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**HB 385**  Murphy, Jim(R)  
Relating to the elimination of certain formula funding and dropped course restrictions for students enrolled in accelerated, affordable baccalaureate programs at public institutions of higher education.

**Companions:**  
**HB 1502**  Murphy, Jim(R)  (Refiled from 84R Session)  
**SB 909**  Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  (Identical)  
2-28-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill will exclude students enrolled in accelerated baccalaureate programs at public institutions of higher education from being dropped from formula funding. This bill only applies to Texas A&M - Commerce and South Texas College. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds vote in each house and applies for the state fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019.

**Last Action:** 5-15-17 S Committee action pending Senate Higher Education

**HB 441**  Martinez, Armando(D)  
Relating to operation of public schools on Memorial Day.

**Companions:**  
**HB 1850**  Martinez, Armando(D)  (Refiled from 84R Session)

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill does not allow a school district to provide instruction on Memorial Day. Effective date: If passed with two-thirds vote in each house, the bill takes immediate effect; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**HB 481**  King, Ken(R)  
Relating to the recovery of overallocated state funds by the Texas Education Agency.

**Remarks:** As passed by committee: The bill would limit the recovery of overallocated funds from school districts if the overallocation occurred more than 7 years before discovery, and the overallocation occurred as a result of statutory changes. Effective date: The bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 4-26-17 S Received in the Senate

**HB 486**  VanDeaver, Gary(R)  
Relating to school district ad valorem tax rates.

**Companions:**  
**HB 390**  Howard, Donna(D)  (Identical)  
3-22-17 H Committee action pending House Ways and Means  
**SB 1267**  Taylor, Larry(R)  (Identical)  
5-4-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill would create an alternative rollback tax rate for school districts that had tax ratification elections held in 2006 or later tax years. It allows a district to adopt a higher rate if the preceding year’s rate was lower than the highest rate approved in a TRE election. But
limits application of that authority if the district approved a TRE to be higher than $1.04 prior to the 2016 tax year, the district adopted a rate above $1.04 in 2016 but below the highest level it had adopted since 2007, and the rate since 2016 had not been approved by a TRE. If passed with two-thirds vote in each house, the bill takes immediate effect; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-15-17 S Removed from hearing 05/16/17, Senate Education

**Remarks:**

Relating to eliminating certain state-required assessment instruments and certain end-of-course assessment instruments not required by federal law.

House engrossed: The bill eliminates the grade 8 STAAR test in social studies, the end-of-course (EOC) test in US History, and the optional Algebra II and English III EOC tests. The SBOE no longer has technical authority to administer the assessment instruments; that is the commissioner’s responsibility (a practical change). TEA is required to release test questions and answer keys at least every third year. The bill removes the high stakes on STAAR reading and mathematics tests in grades 5 and 8, by eliminating retesting, moving the STAAR test administration dates to later in the year, and replacing grade placement committees with accelerated learning committees (ALCs). ALCs are to be convened for students in the 3rd, 5th, and 8th grades who do not pass STAAR reading or mathematics tests. The ALCs are to develop educational plans to help students perform on grade level by the end of the subsequent school year, and to provide other assistance in accordance with local school board policy. Note that the bill does NOT eliminate current requirements for accelerated instruction in all STAAR-tested grade levels and subjects, but does permit such instruction to be delivered in the subsequent school year. Promoted 3rd, 5th, and 8th grade students who fail reading or math tests must be assigned the following year to teachers who meet all state and federal qualifications to teach the relevant subjects and grades. If a student fails the test again at the end of the next school year, the district superintendent or designee must meet with the ALC to identify the reasons for repeat failure and determine whether, and if so, how, to revise the student’s educational plan and if the student needs additional resources.

The bill requires districts to administer a multiple-choice civics test consisting of all of the items used by the US Citizenship and Immigration Services for naturalization to Foundation High School Plan students, when the students are considered to be ready by their US History teachers or school counselors. Students may take the test at any high school grade level and can make any number of attempts to pass.

Tests must be administered electronically in the presence of a teacher, aide, proctor, etc. and be scored by that person or by the district. Each year’s results must be reported to TEA by the last instructional day of the school year. The civics test results are to be used in the accountability system, and the commissioner must determine a cut point on the test that represents college readiness. Beginning with first-time 9th graders in SY
2018-19, students must pass the civics test with a score of 70 percent correct or greater, to earn their high school diplomas. For students served in special education, the ARD committees are to determine whether modifications are needed or, if the use of modifications would not permit accurate measurement, whether the students must pass the tests to receive a diploma. For purposes of graduation requirements, the bill eliminates TAKS retesting and instead requires the students to take the SAT, ACT or TSI and score at or above a cut point determined by the commissioner. (However, for purposes of accountability or accreditation, the commissioner may continue to administer TAKS tests until Sept. 1, 2017.)

The commissioner, rather than the SBOE, is to obtain input from districts in adopting a testing calendar that minimizes disruption to instruction and maximizes instructional time. The bill eliminates the requirement that spring EOC tests be given no earlier than the first full week of May. The bill requires TEA to modify its method of assessing writing in grades 4, 7, English I and English II by September 1, 2021, based upon results of a pilot project and with the input of participating school districts. Biennial reports on progress of the pilot project are due to the legislature by September 1 of each even-numbered year. Academic achievement distinction designations are limited to the areas of reading (not English language arts), mathematics, or science. State accountability reports are to include data about the performance of students who, in prior year, failed STAAR tests in reading or mathematics while in grades 3, 5, or 8. The bill includes several "repealers." These include 1) a repeal of the requirement that the commissioner certify the adequacy of funding for accelerated instruction, and 2) the district limitation on benchmark testing contained in the current language of TEC Ch. 39.0238 that is associated with Alg. II and English III tests for purposes of assessing postsecondary readiness. Applies to SY 2017-18. Effective date: Immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; if otherwise passed, Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

HB 523  
Schofield, Mike(R)  
Relating to the requirement that certain elected school district boards make audio and video recordings of certain work sessions and special called meetings available on the Internet.

**Remarks:** As passed by House committee: This bill would modify the requirements that certain school boards record audio and video of certain meetings. It would expand the meetings to which those requirements apply to include open meetings that are work sessions or special called meetings if the school district has a student enrollment of 10,000 or more, and the board votes on any matter or takes public testimony. Effective date: The bill takes effect on September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

HB 639  
Anderson, Doc(R)  
Menendez, Jose(D)  
Relating to authorizing the purchase of certain insurance coverage by public school districts for the benefit of businesses and students participating in career or technology training programs and providing for immunity.
Companions:  
**HB 380**  Huberty, Dan(R)  (Identical)  2-16-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education  
**SB 1880**  Menendez, Jose(D)  (Identical)  3-23-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education  
**SB 1898**  West, Royce(D)  (Identical)  3-23-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education  

Remarks:  House Engrossed: The bill allows a school district to obtain accident, liability or automobile insurance coverage to protect a business or entity partnering with the district's CTE program or a student participating in a CTE program. If a school district elects to purchase this coverage, it must notify students and their parents. The bill also gives immunity to students in CTE programs as if the student is a volunteer of the district. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds vote.

Last Action:  5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Remarks:**

**Last Action:** 5-12-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Higher Education

Companions:  
**SB 1782**  West, Royce(D)  (Identical)  5-18-17 S Set on the Senate Items Eligible Calendar  

Remarks:  As filed: The bill expands the use of the Texas Educational Opportunity Grant to be used at two- and four-year institutions and certification programs. Effective Date: January 1, 2018.

Last Action:  5-10-17 S Received in the Senate

**Remarks:**

Last Action:  5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for
HB 657  Bernal, Diego(D)  Menendez, Jose(D)  Relating to procedures for a student enrolled in a special education program who fails to perform satisfactorily on certain assessment instruments.

Remarks: House engrossed: For any student participating in a special education program who fails to perform satisfactorily on certain assessment instruments, a district must set an ARD meeting BEFORE the student is administered the assessment again. (The substitute eliminates the 5-day window contained in the original bill language.) At the meeting, the committee may promote student if the committee determines that the student has made sufficient progress on the measurable academic goals in the student's IEP (individualized education program). The district is not compelled to provide the promoted student with additional retest opportunities. The committees also must notify the parents/guardians by September 1 of each school year of the options of the ARD committee if the student does not perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument. Effective date: Immediate if passed by two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

HB 674  Johnson, Eric(D)  Relating to the suspension of a student younger than six years of age from public school.

Remarks: As filed: This bill places limits on the actions that can result in the placement of a student younger than 6 years of age in out of school suspension. Only when such a student commits offenses involving weapons, drugs, alcohol, or a variety of assaults could the student be suspended. Effective date: If the bill receives two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise it takes effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education

HB 789  Meyer, Morgan(R)  Huffines, Donald(R)  Relating to minimum scores required for students in certain school districts to pass an examination for acceleration or for credit.

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill is bracketed for Highland Park ISD. In certain school districts, the board of trustees may establish a minimum required score for each section of an examination for acceleration or an examination for credit that is higher than the currently minimum required score of 80th percentile (Section 28.023 subsections a, b and c). A minimum required score established by a board of trustees may be no greater than a score in the 90th percentile; must be established before the beginning of the school year; and must apply for at least the entire school year - beginning with the 2017-2018 school year. Effective date: Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

HB 816  Bernal, Diego(D)  Relating to a school district assigning a mentor teacher to a new classroom teacher.
**Remarks:** A teacher must agree to be a mentor teacher for at least two school years. The assignment must begin on the first day of employment with the assigned classroom teacher, and the commissioner can adopt rules about the number of classroom teachers to whom a mentor can be assigned. A school district must complete required training of the mentor teacher before the school year, and professional development of both the teacher and the mentor must continue throughout the course of the year (details in bill).

School districts will receive a certain allotment for implementing a mentoring program for classroom teachers who have fewer than two years of classroom experience. If it receives a two-thirds vote by the members of each house, it takes immediate effect. If this act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, it takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-12-17 S Received in the Senate

**HB 832** Clardy, Travis(R)
Relating to state funding for baccalaureate degree programs offered at certain public junior colleges.

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill changes a pilot program to authorizing a BA program in dental hygiene in a junior college located in the county seat of a county with a population greater than 200,000 and includes territory in at least six public school districts located in two counties. Effective date: This bill takes immediate effect if it receives two-thirds vote in each chamber. If it does not, it takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-4-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Higher Education

**HB 836** Clardy, Travis(R)
Relating to a requirement that certain participating institutions under the student loan program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board provide loan debt information to students.

**Companions:** SB 887 Seliger, Kel(R) (Identical)
5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill requires higher education institutions to provide students with information on the estimate of the total amount of education loans previously incurred by the student; an estimate of the total payoff amount, estimate of monthly payment, and an estimate of the percentage of the education loan borrowing limit. Effective date: The bill applies with the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Last Action:** 5-1-17 S Received in the Senate

**HB 846** Raney, John(R)
Menendez, Jose(D)
Relating to the implementation of student financial assistance programs for veterans and their families.

**Companions:** SB 1546 Menendez, Jose(D) (Identical)
3-21-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Veteran Affairs and Border Security

**Remarks:** As passed from committee: The bill would prohibit an institution of higher education from imposing additional fees on military veterans or family members for a program
that are not otherwise required for the purpose of the program. In addition, an institution of higher education would be required to allow a military veteran or family member to defer tuition and fees if the receipt of military related financial assistance was delayed. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action: 5-19-17 S First placement on Senate Intent Calendar for HB 878  King, Ken(R) Perry, Charles(R) Relating to the extension and modification of a public school district depository contract.

Remarks: As voted from committee: This bill would allow a school district and the district’s depository bank to extend a depository contract for three additional two-year terms (the Education Code currently allows for two additional two-year terms). This bill would also allow the school district and its depository bank to modify the contract for any extension. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

HB 884  King, Ken(R) Relating to a revision of the essential knowledge and skills of the public school foundation curriculum and proclamations for the production of instructional materials.

Remarks: House engrossed: The State Board of Education (SBOE) shall conduct a review of the essential knowledge and skills for the foundation curriculum and revise the essential knowledge and skills for that curriculum to narrow the number and scope of student expectations for each subject and grade level. The scope of the essential knowledge and skills must be more narrow than the scope adopted as of January 1, 2017 and require less time for a demonstration of mastery. The SBOE must ensure that a revision of the essential knowledge and skills does not result in a need for the adoption of new instructional materials, and consider for each subject and grade level, the time a teacher would require to provide comprehensive instruction on a particular student expectation, the time required for a typical student to master the student expectation and determine whether a subject can be comprehensively taught within the instruction time required, not including the amount of time required for testing. Also, the SBOE must determine if college and career readiness standards have been appropriately integrated and whether assessment instruments adequately assess a particular student expectation. This review and revision should be completed no later than September 1, 2020. Additionally, for any state fiscal biennium, the SBOE may only issue requests for instructional materials in which the total projected cost does not exceed 75% of the total amount used to fund the instructional materials allotment. Following the adoption of the revised essential knowledge and skills for any subject, the SBOE shall determine whether the issuance of a proclamation for materials is needed based on the significance of the changes. If needed, the board shall issue a full call for materials aligned to the essential knowledge and skills, a supplemental call for instruction materials aligned to new or expanded essential knowledge and skills, and a call for new information demonstrating alignment. Effective date: If passed, the bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.
HB 933  Longoria, Oscar(D)  Seliger, Kel(R)  Rodriguez, Justin(D)  Longoria, Oscar(D)

Relating to a prohibition on the use of certain baseball bats at University Interscholastic League events.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would require UIL to adopt rules to prohibit the use of rolled or shaved baseball bats at games sponsored by the league. If it receives a vote of two-thirds, it takes immediate effect. If it does not get the votes necessary for immediate effect, it takes effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-12-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

HB 961  Rodriguez, Justin(D)  Seliger, Kel(R)

Relating to the election of junior college district trustees by plurality vote.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would change the way junior college district trustees are elected. First, the bill clarifies how the position numbers of newly elected trustees are assigned after the passage of the bill (i.e., in the order in which the terms of the office members expire). Second, each candidate must run for a specific numbered position, and the candidate's name will be placed on the ballot according to the position number for which the candidate is running. Third, the candidate with the highest number of votes (not the majority) will win the election. Fourth, the candidate has to be a resident of the district and a qualified resident of the district. Fifth, the candidate must file a signed and written application naming the number of the position or the incumbent currently holding the position for which the candidate is running with the secretary of the board, complying with Section 144.005. Sixth, the order (not the location) of the names of the candidates for each position shall be chosen at random by the board. Lastly, the board may decide at least 180 days before an election that the winner of the election must receive a majority of the votes. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

HB 972  Giddings, Helen(D)

Relating to the assignment of a public school student to an uncertified teacher.

Remarks: House engrossed: Districts with total enrollments of 5,000 students or more are prohibited from assigning students in grades 1-6 for two consecutive years to teachers with less than one year of experience or teachers who are not certified for the subjects/ grades that they are teaching. The requirement does not apply to teachers of subjects outside the core areas, to students in the first year after having transferred into the district, or to students whose parents/guardians and school counselor or administrator agree with the students' assignment. The commissioner is to adopt rules that would allow a waiver to be granted if the commissioner finds that extreme circumstances in a district warrant the waiver. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Takes immediate effect with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-16-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education
HB 1003  Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  Relating to investment of public funds.

Remarks:  As passed by House committee: The bill amends the public funds investment act to authorize investment in interest-bearing banking deposits guaranteed or insured by the FDIC or NCUSIF. The bill also specifies the ratings associated with negotiable certificates of deposit in order to qualify as an authorized investment, and makes other changes to the instruments that qualify for investment. The bill further requires eligible entities, including some larger school districts, to adopt policies with regard to hedging. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, it would be effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-16-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Business and Commerce

HB 1075  Thompson, Ed(R)  Relating to the frequency of criminal background checks for sports officials registered with the University Interscholastic League.

Remarks:  As filed: This bill would require sports officials for the UIL to submit to a criminal background check every three years. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-16-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

HB 1076  Oliverson, Tom (F)(R) Huffines, Donald(R)  Relating to the mandatory spinal screening of public and private school students.

Remarks:  House Engrossed: This bill removes the specific grade levels in which students must receive spinal screenings, and adds language allowing the executive commissioner of the department of state health services, in cooperation with the Texas Education Agency, to adopt rules for screenings based on the most recent scientific research. Effective date: The bill is effective September 1, 2017, but first applies to the 2018-19 school year.

Last Action:  5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

HB 1081  Arevalo, Diana (F)(D)  Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.

Companions:  SB 359 Watson, Kirk(D) (Identical)  2-1-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

Remarks:  House Engrossed: This bill would modify the definitions of a "new instructional facility" for purposes of the New Instructional Facilities Allotment in Chapter 42 to include a renovated or repurposed facility that is being used as an instructional facility for the first time, or a leased facility operating as an instructional facility for the first time. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

HB 1174  Hinojosa, Gina (F)(D)  Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system.

Remarks:  House engrossed: The bill updates a reference to federal law so that ESSA is cited rather than NCLB; and it adds
the percentage of students who successfully completed an
OnRamps dual enrollment course" to the indicator
measures listed for high schools and districts with high
schools in Domain IV of the HB 2804-compliant
accountability system. A floor amendment revised another
indicator measure in Domain IV for high schools and
districts: the percentage of students completing coherent
sequences of career and technical or fine arts courses (the
fine arts piece is what was added). Effective date: Applies
to SY 2017-18; effective immediately with two-thirds
votes in each house. Otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1,
2017.

Last Action: 5-9-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

HB 1270  Smithee, John(R) Relating to excused absences from public school for the
purpose of visiting a military recruitment center.

Companions: SB 614 Seliger, Kel(R) (Identical)
4-19-17 S Committee action pending Senate
Veteran Affairs and Border Security

Remarks: House engrossed: Expands current law by allowing districts
to excuse up to two days' absence in each of a student's
junior and senior years for purposes of visiting either
accredited institutions of higher education or (this is the
new provision) military recruitment centers for branches of
the US armed services if students are interested in
enlisting. Districts must update their policies to do this, and
must have in place procedures to verify either type of visit.
Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18.
Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house;
otherwise if passed, effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 4-26-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Veteran
Affairs and Border Security

HB 1291  Geren, Charlie(R) Campbell, Donna(R) Relating to the inclusion of American principles in the public
school curriculum and instructional materials.

Remarks: House engrossed: THIS DESCRIPTION WILL BE UPDATED
WHEN SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE LANGUAGE
BECOMES AVAILABLE. The State Board of Education and
each school district must ensure that the curriculum
emphasizes principles underlying the United States' form of
government, including study of the Founding Fathers,
declaration of independence, the US Constitution, bill of
Rights and the Federalist Papers. Historical events
addressed in the curriculum must meet a reasonable
standard of historical significance relative to limited
available instructional time. The substitute no longer
includes language about either the need to present
controversial issues in a balanced manner, inclusive of
multiple viewpoints, or about the requirement that any
district curriculum, including dual credit, AP and IB social
studies courses, must comply with these requirements.
The SBOE's adoption of instructional materials must be
consistent with the guidelines. Effective date: SY 2017-18,
although the requirements associated with the SBOE's
adoption of instructional materials applies to adoptions on
or after Sept. 1, 2018. Effective immediately if passed by
two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise, Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for
Relating to child sexual abuse prevention training for public school students.

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill requires that school districts provide child abuse anti-victimization programs in elementary and secondary schools. The programs must be age appropriate and include evidence-based child sexual abuse prevention training designed to promote self-protection, prevent sexual abuse of children and reduce child pregnancy. The district shall include a description of the training either in an informational handbook provided to students, parents, and guardians or on the district website. The district will ensure that each student enrolled in the district attends the training each year and provides at least 2 opportunities each year for a student to attend the training. The number and percentage of students enrolled who attended the training must be reported to the Agency each year for the preceding school year. The Agency will compile a list of child sexual abuse prevention training programs from which a school district must choose. Effective date: The bill takes effect immediately if passed by two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise the bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

Relating to qualifications for certain teachers employed by open-enrollment charter schools.

**Remarks:** As passed by committee: An an open-enrollment charter school that serves youth referred to or placed in a residential trade center by a local or state agency, a person may be employed as a teacher for a noncore vocational course without holding a baccalaureate degree if the person has: demonstrated subject matter expertise related to the subject taught, such as professional work experience, formal training and education, holding a relevant active professional industry license, certification, or registration, or any combination of work experience, training and education, and industry license, certification, or registration; and received at least 20 hours of classroom management training, as determined by the governing body of the open-enrollment charter school. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for 2017.

Relating to investment by a public junior college district of public funds received from the management and development of mineral rights.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would allow public junior college districts to invest funds earned through leasing district-owned land for its oil, gas or other mineral resources in an account set up specifically for these investments.

This bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system.
Companions: **SB 1900** West, Royce(D)  3-23-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill updates the education code such that the high school graduation rates reported in Domain 4 of the state accountability system must be computed in accordance with the standards and definitions adopted in compliance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The percentage of students who earn an associate degree has also been added to the fourth domain. Effective date: This bill takes effect immediately if approved by two-thirds of each house; otherwise, the bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

HB 1522  White, James(R)  Relating to a task force to coordinate and make recommendations on parent engagement and education programs provided by state agencies.

Companions: **SB 1669** Lucio, Eddie(D)  3-22-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services

Remarks: House Engrossed: The bill creates a 9-member task force on parent engagement and education programs. The task force is intended to coordinate parent engagement and education programs across state agencies, and to develop best practices that help parents to become their children’s first teachers. The task force must meet at least quarterly to receive information and testimony. The task force must submit a report to the legislature by December 1, 2018, that describes its activities, findings, and recommendations, including any proposed legislation about parent engagement and parent education. The task force is abolished on Sept. 1, 2019. Effective date: Immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5- 9-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Health and Human Services

HB 1545  Clardy, Travis(R)  Relating to the acceptance of certain high school courses to satisfy part of the training required to obtain a peace officer license.

Remarks: House Engrossed: By December 1, 2017, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement must adopt rules that establish a procedure by which credit hours earned for successful completion of courses that directly relate to law enforcement can be counted toward the hours of training required of an applicant for a peace officer license. The applicant must submit to the Commission a high school transcript documenting that the student earned an endorsement in the public services category. Effective date: Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Criminal Justice

HB 1553  Lozano, Jose(R)  Relating to permitting a school district that has failed to satisfy performance standards to partner with an institution of higher education to improve district performance.
**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill would allow a school district that has failed to satisfy performance standards to partner with an institution of higher education to help improve its performance. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with a two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 S Vote favorably from committee on Senate Education

**Companions:**

- **HB 1556**   Gonzalez, Mary(D)
  Relating to the appointment of foster parents and other qualified persons to serve as educational decision-makers for certain children in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services.

  **Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill would allow a foster parent to make school-related decisions on behalf of his/her foster child with special needs. The parent would be required to attend special training to qualify. The bill also outlines the steps a school district should take to identify a surrogate parent (who must also undergo training to qualify) if the foster parent is not willing or able to serve in this role.

  This act would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

  **Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Committee action pending Senate Health and Human Services

- **SB 1881**   Menendez, Jose(D) (Identical)
  5-17-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

  **Remarks:** As passed by committee: This bill removes a reference to the State Board granting open-enrollment charters or approving charter revisions. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

  **Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

- **HB 1569**   Guillen, Ryan(D)
  Relating to the removal of an obsolete reference regarding open-enrollment charter schools and the State Board of Education.

  **Remarks:** As filed: This bill requires residential placement facilities to share school records, behavioral history, and arrest records or indictments with school districts or open-enrollment charter schools. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

  **Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Vote favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education

- **SB 1007**   Nichols, Robert(R) (Identical)
  3-6-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

  **Remarks:** As filed: This bill requires residential placement facilities to share school records, behavioral history, and arrest records or indictments with school districts or open-enrollment charter schools. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

  **Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Vote favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education

- **HB 1593**   Bohac, Dwayne(R)
  Relating to the engagement strategies included in a school district’s family engagement plan.

  **Remarks:** House engrossed: This bill would add programs and
HB 1731  King, Ken(R)
Relating to the inclusion of students receiving treatment in a residential facility in the determination of dropout rates for purposes of public school accountability.

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

HB 1640  Vo, Hubert(D)
Relating to the creation of a program to assist foster care youth and former foster care youth in accessing higher education, career information, and skills certifications.

Companions: SB 482  (Identical)

Last Action: 5-10-17 S Received in the Senate

HB 1669  King, Tracy(D)
Relating to requiring certain school districts to adopt a policy allowing students who participate in Special Olympics to earn a letter on that basis.

Remarks: As passed from committee: If a school district allows high school students to earn a letter for academic, athletic, or extracurricular achievements, the district must allow high school students in the district to earn a letter on the basis of a student's participation in a Special Olympics event. This bill would go into immediate effect with a two-thirds vote; otherwise, it would become effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar
**Remarks:** House Engrossed: The bill expands exclusions of students from state dropout rate calculations. The existing limitation, that students had to have been in a juvenile detention facility or residential treatment center for less than 85 days, is removed. In other words, it no longer matters how long the students were in the detention center or residential treatment center, they are not to be counted as dropouts for the district or campus that serves the facility unless the students would ordinarily have been assigned there. The bill also clarifies that the exclusion applies to students who leave residential facilities, other than juvenile detention centers and treatment centers. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

**Companions:** SB 1288

Taylor, Larry(R) (Identical)  
4-19-17 S Removed from hearing 04/20/17, Senate Education

**Remarks:** House engrossed: This bill would remove the U.S. History end-of-course exam and instead, require students entering 9th grade in the 2018-19 school year, to take a multiple-choice civics test that includes all of the questions on the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services exam. To graduate, the student must answer at least 70% of the questions correctly. Districts are to administer the test when the school counselor or US History teacher (if applicable) determine that a given student is prepared for it. If a student is served in a special education program, the student's ARD committee can determine what modifications may be needed to appropriately measure the student's achievement; and, if the test – even with modifications – would not provide an appropriate assessment, then the ARD committee can determine whether the student is required to pass the test for graduation. The test is to be administered electronically in accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner of education, in the presence of a teacher, teacher's aide, proctor, or campus testing coordinator. The test must be scored by either the test administrator or by the school district. Districts must report exam results to TEA, for students who take the test, no later than the last instructional day of the school year in which the tests are administered. Districts are prohibited from restricting the high school grade levels at which students may take the test, and cannot limit the number of times that a given student may attempt to pass the test. Students who were required to pass the US History test as of January 1, 2017, may elect to take the civics test in lieu of the EOC test (until Sept. 1, 2025, when this provision expires). Results of the civics test are to be included in the state accountability system, with scores at/above 70% considered passing. The commissioner is charged with identifying a higher cut score associated with college readiness, for accountability purposes. Effective date: The bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members elected to each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5- 5-17 S Received in the Senate
HB 1886  Miller, Rick(R)  Relating to dyslexia testing, the designation by the Texas Education Agency of a dyslexia specialist, and the development by the agency of a list of training opportunities for educators regarding dyslexia.

Remarks:  House Engrossed: Each regional education service center must employ a licensed dyslexia therapist as a specialist who is to provide districts with support and resources for students with dyslexia and their families. Beginning with SY 2017-18 and in keeping with SBOE program requirements, students are to be screened or tested for dyslexia or related disorders at appropriate times. The program requirements must include screening at the end of the school year for students in kindergarten and first grade. No rescreening or retesting is to take place until a district re-evaluates information from the previous screening or testing. The agency shall annually develop a list of training opportunities, which satisfy certain teachers’ continuing education requirements, regarding dyslexia; at least one online opportunity must be included. The training must comply with the knowledge and practice standards of an international organization on dyslexia and enable an educator to understand and recognize dyslexia and implement instruction that is systematic, explicit, and evidence-based to meet the educational needs of a student with dyslexia. Effective date: The bill takes effective immediately if it receives approval of two-thirds of both houses; otherwise, the bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

HB 1934  Minjarez, Ina(D)  Relating to temporary certification of an educator from outside the state who is the spouse of an active duty military service member.

Remarks:  As voted from committee: This bill would provide for the rules that would expedite the processing of a teacher certificate of the spouse of an active-duty service member. Any temporary certificate would be valid for up to three years. This bill would take immediate effect with a two-thirds vote; otherwise, it would become effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-16-17 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Education

HB 1880  VanDeaver, Gary(R)  Relating to the high school graduation of a student who transfers to a public school in this state after the student’s junior year of high school.

Remarks:  House engrossed: The bill authorizes superintendents to establish an individual graduation committee process for students who transfer into Texas public schools from out of state (which we will refer to as TIGC for convenience), and who already have completed the 11th grade. Eligible students are those who: a) cannot comply with Texas graduation credit requirements by the end of the 12th grade year OR b) will have difficulty complying with graduation examination requirements. The commissioner of education is required to allow eligible students, who are recommended by their TIGCs, to qualify for graduation based on satisfactory performance on nationally recognized, norm-referenced tests or on the TSIA -- without having to complete additional academic
requirements. TIGCs must consider relevant teacher recommendations, performance on alternative assessments of the students' selection, overall postsecondary readiness, and any other academic information that local school boards require to be considered. TIGC decisions cannot be appealed. The commissioner must establish a time line for the TIGC process and establish cut scores on the alternative assessments that correspond to the difficulty levels of state "exit-level assessment instruments," which in current practice refers to EOC tests. Effective date: Applies to high school seniors transferring in from out of state during SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 S Received in the Senate - Referred to Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to providing workplace safety training information for use in the public school curriculum.

**HB 2039**  
**Huberty, Dan(R)**  
Relating to creating an early childhood certification to teach students in prekindergarten through grade three.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the agency to collect and make available to a school district information regarding workplace safety training that may be included as part of the district's curriculum. A school district may develop a workplace safety program that encourages educators to include the workplace safety training information in the curriculum of appropriate courses provided to students enrolled in grades 7 through 12. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members in each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** As passed by House: This bill raises the amount of the New Instructional Facilities Allotment to $1,000 per student in ADA at a new campus. The substitute includes a definition of a "new instructional facility" which includes: a newly constructed instructional facility, a repurposed instructional facility, and a leased facility operation for the first time as an instructional facility with a minimum lease term of not less than 10 years.

**Effective date:** September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-10-17 S Received in the Senate

**Remarks:** Relating to the new instructional facility allotment under the foundation school program.
HB 2057  Oliveira, Rene(D)  Relating to liability of certain political subdivisions in certain workers' compensation actions.

Companions: SB 877  Hancock, Kelly(R)  (Identical)
5-17-17 H Passed (Vote: Y:140/N: 2)

Remarks: As filed: This bill would create a liability for attorney's fees for political subdivisions that self-insure for workers' compensation purposes. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Business and Commerce

HB 2087  VanDeaver, Gary(R)  Relating to restricting the use of covered information, including student personally identifiable information, by an operator of a website, online service, online application, or mobile application for a school purpose.

Companions: SB 1279  Taylor, Larry(R)  (Identical)
3-13-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill would protect identifiable information or information linked to personally identifiable information in any media or format for a student that is not publicly available. An online service operator may not knowingly engage in targeted advertising online if the target of the advertising is based on any information that the operator has acquired through the use of the operator's online service for a school purpose. They may also not create a profile about the student unless it is created for a school purpose, nor may they sell or rent any of the student's covered information. A national assessment provider may sell or rent the information if the provider secures the express "affirmative" (rather than "written" per the filed bill) consent by the student or the student's parent in response to "clear and conspicuous" notice. An online operator may use the information to further a school purpose of the online service if it is solely to provide access to employment, educational scholarships, financial aid or postsecondary educational opportunities, and the receiving entity may not disclose the information to a third party unless it is to: support operability and functionality of the operator's service; ensure compliance; protect against liability; participate in the judicial process; to protect safety and integrity of users and/or security; to respond to requested school, education or employment purposes; to facilitate legitimate research or an educational purpose; or in response to a TEA or district request for a school purpose. Effective date: This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Education

HB 2130  Roberts, Kevin (F)(R) Menendez, Jose(D)  Relating to a study conducted by the Texas Education Agency regarding the impact of the statewide assessment program on students in special education programs.

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to use already-appropriated funds to conduct a study of the impact of the statewide assessment program on students enrolled in special education programs. Using data from SYs 2015-16 and 2017-18, the study should address whether the
administration of the alternate assessment instruments to students enrolled in special education: 1) complies with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA); 2) provides an accurate assessment of the students’ academic achievement, 3) results in the use of assessment instruments that are inappropriate for the educational capacity of the students, 4) results in decreased numbers of students being promoted to the next grade level, 5) results in decreased graduation rates, 6) results in fewer higher education opportunities to students, 7) results in fewer competitive, integrated employment opportunities; and 8) results in any other restrictions, alternative placements, or limitations on advancement. The state must also ascertain whether, and to what extent, a statutory change that effectively exempts students in special education from taking state tests would have on the assessment program, including any legal impact. The agency should identify specific recommendations to improve the impact of the statewide assessment program on students enrolled in special education programs including any reforms or changes with respect to: contracting with assessment instrument vendors, improving grade level promotion and graduation rates, developing accommodations, applying principles of universal design, or whether any changes need to be made to the rules or statutory requirements for developing, adopting, or administering assessment instruments. This report would need to be submitted to the legislature no later than October 1, 2018. TEA must post the report, the data used in the report, and the methodology to its website. Effective date: The bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all member of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

HB 2205  Kuempel, John(R) Relating to a report of child abuse or neglect made by an employee of a school district or an open-enrollment charter school.

Remarks: As filed: This bill requires schools to report to both the Department of Family and Protective Services and a local or state law enforcement agency when reporting cases of child abuse or sexual assault. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action: 5- 8-17 S Received in the Senate - Referred to Senate Education

HB 2223  Giddings, Helen(D) Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to developmental coursework offered by public institutions of higher education under the Texas Success Initiative.

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill would make changes to the Texas Success Initiative (TSI) program to require universal administration of college readiness tests to entering undergraduate students. Performance above cut points set on the SAT or ACT continues to provide a 5-year exemption from the TSIA, and performance above cut points set by TEA on English III and Algebra II EOC tests continues to exempt from taking the TSIA for a period determined by the THECB commissioner. Each institution of higher education (IHE) must develop and implement for all developmental coursework, other than adult basic
education or basic academic skills education, developmental education using a co-requisite model under which a student concurrently enrolls in a developmental education course and a freshman-level course in the same subject area. Each IHE must ensure that at least 75 percent of the students enrolled in developmental coursework, other than adult basic education (ABE) or basic academic skills education, are enrolled in developmental education. If a student fails to satisfactorily complete a freshman-level course, the IHE shall review the plan developed for the student and if necessary, work with the student to revise the plan, and offer to the student a range of competency-based education programs to assist the student. A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course and receives an exemption from TSIA must enroll in a college-level course in the exempted content area during the student's first year of enrollment at an IHE after qualifying for the exemption. If the student earns a grade below a "C" for the course, the IHE must advise the student of non-course-based options for attaining college readiness such as tutoring or accelerated learning. The THECB must collect and analyze data regarding the effectiveness of college preparatory courses by measuring the rate at which exempted students successfully complete the courses. In November of each even-numbered year, the THECB must submit a report of its findings to the legislature and to each IHE and school district that offers a college preparatory course. The legislature shall appropriate money for approved developmental courses, with restrictions regarding credit hours (no more than 9 credit hours of developmental education at 4-year IHES unless the student is an English language learner, in which case the cap is not more than 18 credit hours; at 2-year IHES, the respective caps are 18 and 27). Confidentiality must be maintained in accordance with federal and law regarding confidentiality of student information. The requirements of the bill are to be phased in, such that in SY 2018-19, at least 25 percent of students in developmental coursework are to be served in a corequisite model; in SY 2019-20, 50 percent will be served in a corequisite model; and in SY 2020-21 and thereafter, at least 75 must be served in a corequisite model. Effective date: The bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of the members of each house; otherwise the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

**Companions:**

- **SB 1783** 3-23-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education
- **SB 1902** 3-23-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to continued monitoring of certain public school campuses that have been assigned a campus intervention team.

House engrossed: A campus intervention team would be required to work with a campus, to update its improvement plans and submit the plans to trustees, only for each year that a campus is assigned an unacceptable performance rating. (The bill eliminates requirements for...
performed. The bill eliminates requirements for the campus intervention team to continue working with a school for one or two years after receiving acceptable accountability ratings.). Effective date: September 1, 2017.

### Last Action:
5-17-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate Education

### HB 2369
**Nevarez, Poncho(D)**
**Lucio, Eddie(D)**

Relating to municipal rates for water and sewer service charged to public school districts.

### Remarks:
As substituted by committee: This bill requires that municipal water rates for school districts be no higher than the lowest rate charged to businesses and nonprofit organizations. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

### Last Action:
5-18-17 S Recommended for Local/Uncontested Calendar

### Companions: **HB 2852**
Nevarez, Poncho(D) (Refiled from 84R Session)

### HB 2413
**Burkett, Cindy(R)**
**Lucio, Eddie(D)**

Relating to certain identifying information regarding career school or college students.

### Companions: **SB 2132**
Lucio, Eddie(D) (Identical)
3-28-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

### Last Action:
5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

### HB 2431
**Deshotel, Joe(D)**
**Creighton, Brandon(R)**

Relating to the participation of public state colleges in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.

### Remarks:
As filed: This bill would add "public state colleges" to the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. With a two-thirds vote, this bill would go into immediate effect; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

### Last Action:
5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

### HB 2432
**Raney, John(R)**
**Selig, Kel(R)**

Relating to the establishment of a university system center located in Brazos County as part of The Texas A&M University System.

### Companions: **SB 1982**
Schwertner, Charles(R) (Identical)
3-27-17 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education

### Last Action:
5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

### HB 2442
**King, Ken(R)**

Relating to the minutes of operation required for public school districts, charter schools, and other education programs and to calculating the average daily attendance for certain education programs.

### Remarks:
As substituted by committee: This bill modifies language related to instructional time to allow the statutory minimum time requirements to apply to certain non-instructional times of the day. It authorizes rules to better define the amount of time that qualifies for full-day or half-day status, and allows the commissioner to reduce funding when schools do not meet the requirements. Effective
date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**HB 2537**  
**Guerra, Bobby(D)**  
Relating to requiring public schools to provide information to certain students on the availability of financial assistance for postsecondary education.

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill would require that during a student’s first year enrolled in high school or at a high school level, a school counselor must provide to the student and the parent or guardian, information about the availability of education and training vouchers and tuition and fee waivers to attend an institution of higher education for a student who is or was previously in the conservatorship of the Department of Family and Protective Services. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately upon a vote of two-thirds of all members of both houses; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**HB 2575**  
**Meyer, Morgan(R)**  
Relating to certain requirements imposed on a sex offender who enters the premises of a school.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill requires certain registered sex offenders to immediately notify a school’s administrative office of the person’s presence upon entering a school. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-8-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Criminal Justice

**HB 2611**  
**VanDeaver, Gary(R)**  
Relating to broker agreements for the sale of real property by school districts.

**Remarks:** As voted from committee: This bill would allow school districts to sell tracts of real property by listing them with a licensed real estate broker and listing the tracts for 30 days on the multiple listing service. A board that sells land in that manner is not subject to the notice and bidding requirements in Section 272.001(a), Local Government Code. Effective date: IF the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

**HB 2614**  
**Huberty, Dan(R)**  
Relating to school district discretion to administer college preparation assessment instruments to public school students at state cost.

**Companions:**  
**SB 825**  
Taylor, Larry(R)  
5-18-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: Rather than requiring districts to administer preliminary college preparatory assessment instruments annually to students in eighth and tenth grades, the bill gives districts the option to administer these tests at state cost. Individual students continue to
have the option, in spring of 11th grade or during 12th grade, to select and take a college admissions test one time at state cost. Effective date: Applies to SY 2017-18. Takes immediate effect with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to requiring school districts to assist students in making the transition back to school after certain prolonged placements outside of school.

**HB 2623**

**Allen, Alma(D)**

Relating to an inventory of credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program.

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill requires the agency, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB), and the Texas Workforce Commission, to jointly develop and post on their websites an inventory of the industry-recognized credentials and certificates that may be earned by high school students through a career and technology education program. Specific information such as level of education needed, average salary for jobs with the credentials, and fees required to obtain the credentials must be included. This inventory should be reviewed and updated annually. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately with a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to the method used in rating public school districts and campuses for accountability purposes.

**HB 2782**

**Wilson, Terry (F)(R)**

House Engrossed: The bill would require the commissioner to ensure that the method used to assign ratings and
evaluate performance is implemented in a manner such that it is mathematically possible for all districts and campuses to receive an A rating. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to the criminal punishment for the threatened exhibition or use of a firearm in or on school property or on a school bus.

**HB 2895**

Price, Four(R)  
Seligier, Kel(R)  

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Criminal Justice

Remarks: This bill would make changes to the rules regarding criminal punishment for the threatened exhibition or use of a firearm in or on school property or on a school bus. If a person threatens to use a gun (whether or not they have one or have immediate access to a gun) on school property or a bus is a Class A misdemeanor. If a person threatens to use, exhibits or uses a gun on school property or a school bus, it is a third degree felony. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Relating to the requirement that certain public institutions of higher education post mental health resources on the institution’s Internet website.

**HB 2937**

Canales, Terry(D)  

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

Remarks: House Engrossed: This bill would establish a pilot program under which a licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to high school students in partnership with districts. The agency shall select up to three licensed hospitals to participate in the pilot program that is accredited by the Joint Commission, has been issued a certificate of approval to offer a program of instruction by the Texas Workforce Commission, a certificate of authority to award a degree for a program of study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and be accredited to offer a degree program by a recognized accrediting agency. Each hospital selected may offer under the pilot program only dual credit courses that are in the curriculum of the hospital's authorized program of instruction or study or accredited degree program, and must design the dual credit courses offered to enable students to earn a variety of certifications, certificates and degrees. The available certifications, etc., must be selected based on the needs of the hospitals, the terms of the hospitals’ agreements with partnering school districts, and have the goal of preparing students for employment in the health care field. A student may not be charged for tuition, fees, or required textbooks or other instructional materials for a dual credit course offered under the pilot program. The school district in which the student is enrolled is responsible for the cost minus any amounts waived by the hospital. This program would begin with SY 2017-18. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-
thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Meeting set for On Adj., Senate Floor, Senate Education

**HB 2994**  
Ashby, Trenton(R)  
Hinojosa, Chuy(D)  
Relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Higher Education

**Remarks:** As filed: Allows licensed chiropractors under Chapter 201 of Occupation Code to remove student from UIL activity if person believes student may have sustained a concussion. Effective date: September 1, 2017 or immediate effect with two-thirds vote.

**HB 3024**  
Price, Four(R)  
Birdwell, Brian(R)  
Relating to the removal of a public school student from an interscholastic athletic activity on the basis of a suspected concussion.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Remarks:** As filed: Allows licensed chiropractors under Chapter 201 of Occupation Code to remove student from UIL activity if person believes student may have sustained a concussion. Effective date: September 1, 2017 or immediate effect with two-thirds vote.

**HB 3075**  
Huberty, Dan(R)  
Relating to excluding certain students from the computation of dropout and completion rates for purposes of public school accountability.

**Companions:**  
SB 727  
Garcia, Sylvia(D)  
(Identical)

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

**Remarks:** House engrossed: The bill would extend a specific dropout exclusion to charters as well as to public school districts. The exclusion is one associated with students who are detained in juvenile detention facilities and who otherwise would not be served in the local district (or, through this bill, the charter school). Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**HB 3082**  
Capriglione, Giovanni(R)  
Relating to the investment training requirement for certain local government officers.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill modifies the training requirements for treasurers, chief financial officers, and investment officers of local governments related to investing public funds. It clarifies conflicting language created by multiple amendments adopted in 2015, and repeals a requirement that duplicated other provisions. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-15-17 S Committee action pending Senate Intergovernmental Relations

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would allow an individual who attends a public or private school to be screened using photoscreening to detect vision disorders of students.

**HB 3157**  
Bonnen, Dennis(R)  
Huffman, Joan(R)  
Relating to requirements for screenings in public or private schools to detect vision disorders of students.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would allow an individual who attends a public or private school to be screened using photoscreening to detect vision disorders as soon as is
Relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to enter into a memorandum of understanding with regional day school programs for the deaf regarding performance evaluation requirements for accountability purposes.

Remarks: House Engrossed: The bill requires TEA to exclude certain records from accountability system calculations. Specifically, a student in a regional day school program for the deaf, whose parent or guardian does not reside in the school district providing program services, is not considered a student of the district or campus in which the program is physically located. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

Relating to criminal background checks for persons employed by certain public school contractors.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would allow individuals that are working on an extended construction project for a school district being subject to the same background check and fingerprinting restrictions that other school district contractors and employees must experience. These individuals would only be allowed to work in areas where they would have no opportunity to interact with students--either in a non-instructional facility or on the property of an instructional facility with a fence at least 6 feet high and access to proper sanitary facilities without having to enter into the instructional facility. Anyone convicted of certain offenses would not be allowed to enter the instructional facility. In the case of an emergency, this individual could enter if they were accompanied by a school district employee. This act would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

Relating to creating an abbreviated certification program and a certificate for trade and industrial workforce training.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would allow a person with significant industry/trade work experience and an industry/trade license to have access to an abbreviated teaching certificate preparation program. With a two-thirds vote, the bill would become automatically effective; otherwise, the bill would go into effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-15-17 S Received in the Senate

Relating to a periodic review by the Economic Incentive Oversight Board of the ad valorem tax incentive program established by the Texas Economic Development Act.

Remarks: As filed: This bill calls on the Economic Incentive Oversight Board to review and make recommendations regarding the ad valorem tax incentive program under Tax code 313. Findings and recommendations would be part of the
biennial report of the board to the legislature. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop

**Remarks:** Relating to the recording by a county clerk of certain documents relating to the sale or lease of public school land.

**HB 3423**  
Koop, Linda(R)  
Uresti, Carlos(D)  
Relating to the creation of a state financing program administered by the Texas Public Finance Authority to assist school districts with certain expenses.

**Remarks:** As filed: School district may use the Texas Public Finance Authority for assistance with borrowing money for general obligations. The bill sets up an equipment and improvement fund, which is set up outside of treasury and the Finance Authority can use for school district assistance. The aggregate limit may not exceed $100 million and may not have any issuance after September 1, 2021. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: Adds technology as part of the free instructional materials that shall be furnished without cost to students attending school, as well as changing references to the "instructional materials allotment" to the "technology and instructional materials allotment". Effective date: September 1, 2017, or immediate with two thirds vote.

**HB 3526**  
Howard, Donna(D)  
Relating to renaming the instructional materials allotment as the technology and instructional materials allotment and making associated technical changes.

**Last Action:** 5-12-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would release the nonprofit corporation established by the Texas Public Finance Authority from liability for issuing bonds to open enrollment charter schools for those schools.

**HW 3548**  
Parker, Tan(R)  
Relating to the applicability of certain immunity and liability laws to the nonprofit corporation established by the Texas Public Finance Authority to issue revenue bonds to open-enrollment charter schools for those schools.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would release the nonprofit corporation established by the Texas Public Finance Authority from liability for issuing bonds to open enrollment charter facilities. With a two-thirds vote, this bill would take immediate effect; otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-10-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate State Affairs
HB 3563  Koop, Linda(R)  Taylor, Van(R)
Relating to parental notification regarding public school teacher qualifications.

Remarks: House engrossed: This bill would require schools to provide notice to parents or guardians regarding teachers who do not meet certification requirements at the grade level and subject area in which the teacher is assigned. This notification would not apply if the school is already required to do so in accordance with the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S First placement on Senate Intent Calendar for

HB 3593  Bernal, Diego(D)
Relating to instruction in career and technology education provided by public schools, including instruction in technology applications, cybersecurity, and computer coding, and to consideration of completed practicums.

Remarks: House engrossed: The bill was amended on the House floor so that technology applications courses remain distinct from career and technology education. A district may offer a course for local credit in cybersecurity, and the SBOE is charged with approving courses in cybersecurity for high school graduation credit. Districts may offer cybersecurity courses approved by the school board for credit without obtaining SBOE approval, if the district partners with a public or private institution of higher education that offers an undergraduate degree program in cybersecurity to develop and provide the course to students. Districts are required to report to TEA the names of these courses and the higher education partners in which students have enrolled. The bill adds computer coding to the programming credits that may substitute for up to 2 foreign language credits that are required for graduation, and adds courses in cybersecurity and coding to the courses that can earn students a STEM endorsement. The SBOE is charged with adoption or selection of five technology applications courses for inclusion in a cybersecurity pathway within the STEM endorsement. The bill also expands the subsidy for certification exams to include teachers who pass certification exams in cybersecurity. Districts would be entitled to use NIFA allotments to renovate existing facilities into dedicated cybersecurity computer laboratories. The bill forays into the accountability system by adding an indicator measure to the current Domain IV measures: the percentage of students who successfully complete a practicum or internship that is approved by the SBOE. The bill requires graduation rates to be prepared in an ESSA-compliant manner. Texas State Technical College System campuses and extension centers that partner with school districts to provide cybersecurity programs are not required to obtain approval from the THECB to do so. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective September 1, 2017 or immediately with two-thirds vote.

Last Action: 5-19-17 S Voted favorably from committee as amended Senate Education

HB 3629  Bonnen, Dennis(R)
Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for the Brazosport College District to offer
a baccalaureate degree program in nursing.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Committee action pending Senate Higher Education

**Remarks:** Relating to extension of the timeline for a parent to request a special education impartial due process hearing in certain circumstances.

**HB 3632**    **Moody, Joe(D)**

As filed: This bill waives the timeline for requesting a due process hearing if the parent of of the student is a servicemember, defined as a member of the armed forces, commissioned corps of NOAA, or commissioned corps of Public Health Service, and was unable to request a hearing under 20 USC 1415(f)(3)(D). Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to alternative education programs designed to address workforce development needs for at risk students.

**HB 3706**    **Lucio III, Eddie(D)**

House Engrossed: This bill would enable districts to offer alternative education programs designed to address workforce development needs for at risk students. The program could take place at a campus, through the use of an Internet online program that leads to a high school diploma and prepares the student to enter the workforce, or through a campus-based dropout recovery education program. Any online course must include as part of its curriculum credentials, certifications, or other course offerings that relate directly to employment opportunities in the state, employ faculty and administrators with baccalaureate or advanced degrees, provide an academic coach or local advocate for each student, use an individual learning plan to monitor progress, establish satisfactory requirements for monthly progress, and provide monthly progress reports to the district. A district could also allow students to enroll in a dropout recovery program for which the courses are conducted online. This bill would take effect beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

**Remarks:** Relating to funding adjustments for school districts that annex unacceptable school districts.

**HB 3722**    **King, Ken(R)**

House engrossed: This bill authorizes the commissioner to adopt rules under which a school district could be granted additional funding for annexing an unacceptable school district. For five years, the school district would receive the additional funds by whichever of two distinct methodologies results in a greater amount of funds. The first method determines an amount by multiplying the lesser of the district’s local fund assignment or the district’s total cost of Tier 1 by the percentage of the enlarged district’s student population that comes from the annexed district. The second methodology is the traditional incentive aid payments as authorized in Subchapter G. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-1-17 S Received in the Senate
Relating to annual reporting regarding the establishment of certain school district planning and decision-making committees.

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill would require the board annually certify to TEA that the board has established the district- and campus-level committees required each year. This bill would apply beginning with 2017-18. With a two-thirds vote, the bill would go into immediate effect; otherwise, it would go into effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-12-17 S Referred to Senate Committee on Senate Education

Relating to trauma training for public school personnel.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill adds recognition of physical and emotional trauma in students to the list of mental health related best practice areas to be listed by the department of state health services for training in school districts. The bill also requires school districts to annually report the numbers of staff trained in the topics covered by the list. the agency is required to publish the information on its website. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

Relating to the administration of and benefits payable under the Texas Public School Retired Employees Group Benefits Act.

**Remarks:** House Engrossed: This bill attempts to fund the $1.0 billion TRS Care shortfall by increasing the state contribution from 1.0 to 1.25, increasing the school district contribution from 0.55 to 0.75, and changing the retiree benefits—retirees that are not eligible for Medicare would be transitioned to a high deductible plan ($3,000 deductible, total of $7,150 out of pocket, and open enrollment in plan once 65 years of age). Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Placed on the Senate Calendar for

Relating to eligibility and contributions for coverage under the state employee group benefits program and health benefit plans offered by certain university systems.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the Department of Health and Safety to develop and update a list of research-based practices regarding physical or emotional-trauma intervention, social and emotional learning, positive school climate and positive behavior supports for implementation in K-12 schools. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 S Voted favorably from committee as substituted Senate State Affairs

Relating to certain research-based practices for use by public school personnel.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the Department of Health and Safety to develop and update a list of research-based practices regarding physical or emotional-trauma intervention, social and emotional learning, positive school climate and positive behavior supports for implementation in K-12 schools. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 S Set on the Local Calendar

Relating to staff development and continuing education requirements for public school educators regarding digital education methods.
Relating to an education savings account program and a tax credit scholarship and educational expense assistance program.

Remarks: Engrossed: The bill creates an education savings account program that will be managed by the comptroller's office for students that live in school districts that are located wholly in or in part of a zone of a county of 235,000 people or more based upon the 2010 census and for students of smaller areas whose residents elect to opt into the program. A child is eligible to participate in the program if the child attended a public school during the entire preceding academic year.

The comptroller will create an enrollment form for the program. The following are approved education-related expenses: (1) tuition and fees, including at a private school accredited by an organization that is recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or a postsecondary education institution or an online educational course or program; (2) the purchase of textbooks or other instructional materials, purchase of curriculum, fees for classes or services that do not qualify for a tax credit scholarship; and (3) fees and expenses for other educational services that are part of the student's education plan.

Most importantly, it provides educational assistance for students in school districts that are classified as lowest 25% in state funding, or small districts as defined by the Texas Education Agency, for whom the education savings account program would be a benefit. The bill also states that the comptroller will be responsible for the program's administration and any necessary rules, and that the comptroller will be accountable to the legislature for the program's performance.

Last Action: 5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar
the child to be included in the school's average daily attendance, fees for a private tutor or teaching service; for a child with a disability, fees for educational therapies; (3) cost of school transportation up to $500 and school lunch/breakfast as provided by the school. Costs for computer hardware and software and other technological devices as prescribed by a physician (cannot exceed in any year 10% of the ESA); fees for nationally norm-referenced achievement test or examination; fees for the management of the participant's account charged by a financial institution. ESA cannot be used for consumable supplies (e.g., paper, pens, pencils, etc.), food besides school provided breakfast and lunch or before-school or after-school child care and child care during school holidays and vacations. The content and religious nature of a product or service MAY NOT be considered in determining whether a payment for the product or service is an allowable expense.

The ESA payment will be calculated as follows: (1) if a child's household income is at or below 175% level to qualify for free/reduced lunch, the payment is 75% of the state average; regardless of income, if a child is a child with a disability (defined as a student with an IEP or qualifies for 504 accommodations), the payment is 90% of the state average.

The first year a child participates in this program, the district the child would otherwise attend is entitled to receive an amount equal to 50% of the difference between: (1) state average M&O expenditures per student in ADA for the preceding fiscal year; and (2) the amount the child's parent receives under the ESA. A child participating in the ESA program is included in the weighted average daily attendance of the school district the child would otherwise attend for purposes of determining the district's equalized wealth level. Any remaining funds in the child's account at the end of the fiscal year are carried forward.

The comptroller shall contract with a private entity to randomly audit accounts. The comptroller shall suspend the account of a participant who fails to comply with applicable law or a requirement of the program. The comptroller can try to recover funds distributed under this account.

No agency can regulate the educational program of an education service provider or vendor of products that receives ESA funds nor exercise control or supervision over a program participant or vendor that receives funds distributed under the program. The program does not expand the regulatory authority of the state or school district to impose any additional regulation on a provider or vendor. A private school may not be required to modify the school's creed, practices, admissions policies, curriculum, performance standards, or assessments to receive funds. A private school may not be required to comply with any state law or rule governing the applicable educational program that was not in effect on Jan 1, 2017.

Not later than Oct. 1 of each year, the comptroller shall notify the commissioner and LBB of the number of eligible children likely to participate in the program and not later than May 1 of each year, the comptroller shall provide final information on the number of children participating.
The bill also creates a tax credit scholarship program for contributions to a certified educational assistance organization. Credit for contributions would be given against up to 50% of an organization’s insurance premium taxes. An organization may apply to the comptroller for certification as a certified educational assistance organization. This organization will be responsible for giving a student a scholarship. The scholarship may be used for facility fees, textbooks, school supplies, tutoring, academic after-school programs, school or lab fees, and transportation expenses, including the cost to transfer from one public school to another. A student eligible for this component must live in school districts that are located wholly in or in part of a zone of a county of 235,000 people or more based upon the 2010 census and for students of smaller areas whose residents elect to opt into the program. The student must also be in foster care, institutional care, have a parent who is on active duty in the military, be a student with an IEP or 504 plan, or have a household income not greater than 175% of free/reduced level; and have attended public school during the entire preceding academic year.

The amount of the scholarship is either 75% of the state average M&O expenditures per student in the preceding year for students. If the student also receives an ESA, the student must be in foster care, institutional care, have a parent on active duty in the military, or eligible for special education services. A student that leaves the public school to use the tax-credit scholarship will be counted as a student in the weighted average daily attendance of the school the student would otherwise attend for the first year they receive the scholarship.

Should a child with a disability want to leave the public school system to use their ESA (and tax-credit scholarship, if applicable), the parents will receive and must sign and return to the comptroller, a form notifying that the family is waiving the child’s FAPE rights.

The comptroller will issue a report by December 31 of each even-numbered year to determine the amount of net savings for the previous state fiscal biennium.

For the 2018 state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits may not exceed $100 million. No student in the first year can receive more than $500. This student max will increase by 5% each year.

As filed: The bill creates an education savings account program that will be managed by the comptroller's office. A child is eligible to participate in the program if the child was born on or after Sept. 1, 2012 or attended a public school during the entire preceding academic year. The comptroller will create an enrollment form for the program. The following are approved education-related expenses: (1) tuition and fees, including at a private school accredited by an organization that is recognized by the Texas Private School Accreditation Commission or a postsecondary education institution or an online educational course or program; (2) the purchase of textbooks or other instructional materials, purchase of curriculum, fees for classes or services that do not qualify the child to be included in the school’s average daily attendance, fees for a private tutor or teaching service; for a child with a disability, fees for educational therapies. Costs for
computer hardware and software and other technological devices (cannot exceed in any year 10% of the ESA); fees for nationally norm-referenced achievement test or examination; fees for the management of the participant’s account charged by a financial institution. ESA cannot be used for consumable supplies (e.g., paper, pens, pencils, etc.), food or before-school or after-school child care and child care during school holidays and vacations. The content and religious nature of a product or service MAY NOT be considered in determining whether a payment for the product or service is an allowable expense.

The ESA payment will be calculated as follows: (1) if a child is a member of a household with a total annual income that exceeds 200% of the guidelines to qualify for free/reduced lunch, 60% of the state average maintenance and operation expenditures per student in ADA for the preceding fiscal year; if a child’s household income is at or below 200% level to qualify for free/reduced lunch, the payment is 75% of the state average; regardless of income, if a child is a child with a disability, the payment is 90% of the state average.

The first year a child participates in this program, the district the child would otherwise attend is entitled to receive an amount equal to 50% of the difference between: (1) state average M&O expenditures per student in ADA for the preceding fiscal year; and (2) the amount the child’s parent receives under the ESA. Any remaining funds in the account at the end of the fiscal year are carried forward.

The comptroller shall contract with a private entity to randomly audit accounts. The comptroller shall suspend the account of a participant who fails to comply with applicable law or a requirement of the program. The comptroller can try to recover funds distributed under this account.

No agency can regulate the educational program of an education service provider or vendor of products that receives ESA funds nor exercise control or supervision over a program participant or vendor that receives funds distributed under the program. The program does not expand the regulatory authority of the state or school district to impose any additional regulation on a provider or vendor. A private school may not be required to modify the school’s creed, practices, admissions policies, curriculum, performance standards, or assessments to receive funds. A private school may not be required to comply with any state law or rule governing the applicable educational program that was not in effect on Jan 1, 2017.

Not later than Oct. 1 of each year, the comptroller shall notify the commissioner and LBB of the number of eligible children likely to participate in the program and not later than May 1 of each year, the comptroller shall provide final information on the number of children participating.

The bill also creates a tax credit scholarship program for contributions to a certified educational assistance organization. Credit for contributions would be given against insurance premium taxes. An organization may apply to the comptroller for certification as a certified educational assistance organization. This organization will be responsible for giving a student a scholarship. The
The amount of the scholarship is either 75% of the state average M&O expenditures per student in the preceding year for students, or 50% if the student's household income is more than 175% of the eligibility level for free or reduced price lunch. If the student also receives an ESA, the student must be in foster care, institutional care, have a parent on active duty in the military, or eligible for special education services.

The comptroller will issue a report by December 31 of each even-numbered year to determine the amount of net savings for the previous state fiscal biennium.

For the 2018 state fiscal year, the total amount of tax credits may not exceed $100 million.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: A political subdivision may not adopt or enforce an order, ordinance, or other measure that relates to the designation or use of a private entity's bathroom or changing facility or that requires the entity to adopt, or prohibits the entity from adopting, a policy on the designation or use of the entity's bathroom or changing facility. A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall require that each multiple-occupancy bathroom or changing facility accessible to students and located in a school or school facility be designated for and used only by persons based on the person's biological sex. This does not prohibit a school district or open-enrollment charter school from providing an accommodation, including a single-occupancy bathroom or changing facility or the controlled use of a faculty bathroom or changing facility, on request due to special circumstances. The school district or open-enrollment charter school may not provide an accommodation that allows a person to use a multiple-occupancy bathroom or changing facility accessible to students that is designated for the biological sex opposite to the person's biological sex. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 3-16-17 H Received in the House

**Companions:**  

- **SB 6**  
  Kolkhorst, Lois(R)  
  Relating to regulations and policies for entering or using a bathroom or changing facility.

- **SB 9**  
  Hancock, Kelly(R)  
  Relating to the constitutional limit on the rate of growth of appropriations.
Remarks: Senate Engrossed: This bill would alter the definition used to limit growth in state appropriations from one biennium to the next. It would add a measure of appropriations to the limitation, which effectively expands the definition to include some non-tax revenue. The appropriations base would be expanded to include general revenue related funds and dedicated accounts. The allowable growth rate would be redefined to be based on population growth and inflation. The bill further excludes state appropriations made for the purpose of rebating state taxes. Effective date: The bill would be effective September 1, 2017, although the effect of the amendments would first be applicable to appropriations made for the 2020-21 biennium.

Last Action: 4-18-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations

Companions: HB 510 (Identical) Davis, Sarah(R)
2-22-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: The bill would prohibit all political subdivisions of the state, including school districts, from deducting or withholding dues for labor unions, employees’ associations, or professional organizations from employee payrolls. An exception is made for fire, police, and emergency services personnel. The bill also repeals Education Code Section 22.001, which authorizes school districts to make salary deductions for professional dues. Effective Date: The bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-15-17 H Referred to House Committee on House State Affairs

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: This bill, starting 2020, would reduce franchise tax rates whenever general revenue is projected to grow by more than 5%. The reduction would be set to a level consumed 50% of the excess growth in general revenue above the 5% level. The rates would remain at a lower level in future biennia unless an additional reduction is called for. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Ways and Means

Remarks: As filed: The bill would no longer require public higher education institutions from setting aside 15% of the tuition it charges for financial aid. Effective date: This act takes effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

Remarks: Relating to temporary limitations on the amount of tuition

Last Action:
and fees charged by certain public institutions of higher education.

Remarks: As filed: The bill would require a general academic teaching institution to charge tuition between 2018-2022 that is the same amount that it would charge in 2016-2017. As filed: This bill would allow a coordinating board to authorize the creation of a baccalaureate degree program in early childhood education at junior colleges located within counties in a populated area that need early childhood educators and where a regional public university is unable to provide these programs. The bill stipulates that these programs will be funded only by the junior college's proportionate share of state appropriations, local funds and private sources—this bill does not require the legislature to provide additional money for these programs. Effective date: Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

SB 22 Taylor, Larry(R)
Lucio III, Eddie(D)

Relating to the establishment of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and to the repeal of the tech-prep program.

Companions: HB 1237 Lucio III, Eddie(D) (Identical)
4-24-17 H Removed from hearing 04/25/17, House Public Education
HB 1842 Giddings, Helen(D) (Identical)
3-9-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

Remarks: House committee report: Beginning with SY 2018-19, the bill repeals Subchapter T, Ch. 61 of the Education Code, which is specific to Tech-Prep programs; it also repeals associated student-level data reporting requirements. In its place, the bill establishes in Ch. 29 a new type of high school, the Pathways in Technology Early College High (P-TECH) school with a new, associated advisory council. P-TECH schools must be provided at no cost to participating students, open-enrollment schools that allow 9th-12th grade students to take higher education courses as they complete high school and, within 6 years of entry into the 9th grade, graduate with an associates degree, a 2-year postsecondary certificate or industry certificate, and to have completed work-based training. Districts must enter into articulation agreements with institutions of higher education and establish MOUs with industry or business partners, with the business partners being required to give first priority to P-TECH students in interviews for any jobs for which the students are qualified. The bill authorizes districts to obtain appropriate insurance coverage and extends immunity to students in the P-TECH school just as is afforded to professional employees of the district. The commissioner is to adopt rules to implement the program, including procedures and criteria for obtaining P-TECH designation and establishment of grant funds (if those are appropriated). The commissioner may not consider P-TECH students as dropouts until the 6th year after entry into 9th grade. P-TECH students can draw FSP funding proportional to the time they spend in high school courses. The bill also removes a reference to tech prep courses that might earn $50 per student in FSP funding as part of the career and technology allotment, although that particular feature accounts for far less than 1% of all CTE funding. Effective date: September 1, 2017.
SB 30  
West, Royce(D)  
Thompson, Senfronia(D)  
Relating to inclusion of instruction regarding interaction with peace officers in the required curriculum for certain public school students and in driver education courses and to civilian interaction training for peace officers.

Remarks:  
House Committee Report: This bill would require the State Board of Education (SBOE) and the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement (TCLE) to enter into a memorandum of understanding to establish each agency’s respective responsibilities in developing instruction, including curriculum and instructional modules, on proper interaction with peace officers during traffic stops and other in-person encounters. A local community or school district would be given the ability to tailor the instruction to fit their community’s needs. The instruction must include a demonstration of a properly handled traffic stop, and information regarding the role of law enforcement and the duties of peace officers, proper behavior for civilians and peace officers, laws regarding questioning and detention including any law requiring a person to present proof of identity, and how and where to file a complaint. Before finalizing the instruction, a reasonable period for public comment should be allowed. School districts would offer this module and could be part of another required curriculum in grades 9-12. The TCLE would also develop instruction regarding traffic stops to be included in any driver education or driving safety course. This instruction must also include recommendations by the task force and include a demonstration of the proper actions to be taken during a traffic stop, and the information as listed above. This curriculum would have to be completed as part of the minimum requirements for an officer and it would have to be completed by the second anniversary of the date when the officer was licensed. Effective date: This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  
5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 50  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Lozano, Jose(R)  
Relating to the offense of hazing.

Companions:  
SB 33  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
(Refiled from 84R Session)

Remarks:  
As filed: The bill tightens up the language regarding hazing. It also provides immunity from civil liability any person who voluntarily reports a hazing incident if the person reports the incident before being contacted by the institution and as determined by the dean or other official that the person cooperated in good faith. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action:  
5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

SB 59  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Kuempel, John(R)  
Relating to energy and water management planning and reporting requirements for state agencies and institutions of higher education.

Remarks:  
As filed: This bill changes how state energy conservation office assists state agencies and institutions of higher education in creating energy usage plans. The
requirements now govern transportation fuels besides gasoline and do not require updating of efficiency plans. It also changes the deadline for the state energy conservation office to report to the LBB and governor about the conservation efforts by state agencies and institutions of higher education from December 1 of each even-number year to January 15 of each odd-numbered year. This bill would be effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Government Transparency and Operation

**Remarks:** As passed by Senate: This bill creates a program of incentives whereby state agencies could retain a portion of unused appropriations to be utilized for state employee bonuses.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Appropriations

**SB 195**  
Garcia, Sylvia(D)  
Relating to funding under the transportation allotment for public school students subject to a high risk of violence while walking to school.

**Remarks:** As filed, the bill adds a criterion to the transportation allotment in chapter 42, Education Code, that would allow for the funding of transportation routes that have a high risk of violence if students walked to school.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**SB 196**  
Garcia, Sylvia(D)  
Relating to a notification requirement if a public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, does not have a nurse, school counselor, or librarian assigned to the school during all instructional hours.

**Remarks:** Senate engrossed: The bill now applies to all districts (original language was bracketed to districts that are in counties with populations of 100,000 or more). A public school, including an open-enrollment charter school, must provide written notice to parents/guardians of students when the school does not have a full-time (or equivalent) school counselor, nurse, or librarian assigned to it for more than 30 consecutive instructional days. “Equivalent” is now defined to mean that two or more personnel are assigned to the school and ALL regular instructional hours are now covered by at least one counselor, nurse, and librarian. The notice may be provided via the school’s web site provided the notice is accessible within three links of the home page. Schools are required to make a good faith effort to provide the notice in bilingual form to parents/guardians whose primary language is not English. Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective date: Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education
SB 200  Campbell, Donna (R)  Relating to public access to boundary, financial, and tax rate information of certain political subdivisions.

Remarks:  As filed: The bill requires TEA to submit each school district's budget to the comptroller so that the comptroller can update the Political Subdivision Public Information Warehouse. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Government Transparency and Operation

SB 227  Huffmnan, Joan (R)  Clardy, Travis (R)  Relating to certain substances listed in Penalty Group 2 of the Texas Controlled Substances Act.

Remarks:  As filed: The bill requires TEA to submit each school district's budget to the comptroller so that the comptroller can update the Political Subdivision Public Information Warehouse. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action:  5-17-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

SB 249  Schwertner, Charles (R)  Oliverson, Tom (F) (R)  Relating to the submission of an affordability and access report by public institutions of higher education.

Remarks:  As filed: The bill expands the list to include the governor, lt. governor, speaker and legislature that are required to receive a report that examines the affordability and access of higher education institutions. Effective date: September 1, 2017

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

Companions:  HB 445  Frank, James (R)  (Identical)

5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar

SB 277  Campbellel, Donna (R)  Relating to the eligibility of certain property ofr certain ad valorem tax incentives relating to wind-powered energy.

Remarks:  As passed by Senate committee: This bill would prohibit the award of a tax abatement or a tax value limitation to wind energy projects that is within 30 nautical miles of the boundaries of a military aviation facility. Effective date: January 1, 2018.

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee as substituted House Ways and Means

SB 295  Hinojosa, Chuy (D)  Flynn, Dan (R)  Relating to the issuance of certain capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions.

Remarks:  Senate Engrossed: This bill would eliminate certain restrictions on the use of capital appreciation bonds by political subdivisions, and certain reporting requirements associated with those issues, for refunding bonds or for financing transportation projects. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-16-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Investments and Financial Services

SB 370  Garcia, Sylvia (D)  Relating to the removal, suspension, or expulsion of a public school student enrolled in certain grade levels.

Remarks:  As filed: This bill generally prohibits the suspension, placement in a DAEP, or expulsion of student enrolled in grades three or lower, except for bringing firearms to school. Effective date: If the bill receives two-thirds vote in
SB 384  Burton, Konni(R)  

Relating to the scheduling of the administration of certain postsecondary readiness assessment instruments to public high school students.

Remarks:  Senate engrossed: The bill requires TEA to make all reasonable efforts to schedule spring end-of-course (EOC) tests on dates that do not conflict with administration of national assessments associated with award of college credits (e.g., Advanced Placement tests). The bill removes the requirement that EOC tests not be administered before the second full week in May. Effective date: If passed by two-thirds votes in each house, effective immediately; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017. Applies to SY 2017-18.

Last Action:  5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 398  Kolkhorst, Lois(R)  

Relating to a study conducted by the State Auditor's Office to compare the projected cost estimate attached to certain bills and resolutions to the actual cost to the state of the bills and resolutions.

Remarks:  As filed: This bill would require the state auditor to conduct a study to compare the costs estimated for proposed legislation in fiscal notes prepared by the Legislative Budget Board to the actual costs of the legislation. The auditor would be required to sample at least 10% of fiscal notes prepared in the last five legislative sessions. The fiscal notes subject to the study must be those that identified a cost to the state, and the legislation must have actually passed. The auditor is required to provide a report on the results of the study by September 1, 2018. Effective date: If the bill passes with a two-thirds majority in each chamber, effective immediately; otherwise, effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5- 2-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Appropriations

SB 400  Kolkhorst, Lois(R)  

Relating to the verification of information provided to the comptroller and contained in reports on compliance with agreements under the Texas Economic Development Act.

Companions:  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill Number</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Status</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HB 3637</td>
<td>Turner, Chris(D)</td>
<td>(Refiled from 84R Session)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 829</td>
<td>Kolkhorst, Lois (F)(R)</td>
<td>(Refiled from 84R Session)</td>
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</tbody>
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Remarks:  As filed, the bill would add requirements to Chapter 313, Tax Code, that would have the comptroller verify the data used to report on jobs, investment values, and taxes that are or would have been imposed for projects that receive a value limitation. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-17-17 H Committee action pending House Economic and Small Business Development

Rodriguez, Jose(D)  

Relating to the operation of the special education continuing
SB 436  Uresti, Tomas (F)(D)  advisory committee.

**Companions:**  HB 4226  Uresti, Tomas (F)(D)  (Identical)

5-8-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

**Remarks:**  As filed: This bill requires the special education continuing advisory committee to conduct its meetings according to the open meetings requirements of Government Code Chapter 551. The committee must allow public testimony at its meetings, and post notice of its meetings. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**  5-17-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

SB 445  Burton, Konni(R)

Relating to the authorization and reporting of expenditures for lobbying activities by certain political subdivisions and other public entities.

**Companions:**  HB 648

**Remarks:**  As substituted: This bill requires that certain political subdivisions, including school districts, must authorize funds for lobbying activities (directly or indirectly influence or attempt to influence the outcome of legislation pending before the legislature) in a public vote by the governing body in an open meeting of the governing body. The vote must be a stand-alone item on the agenda. The bill also requires reporting of the amount authorized, the name of any person required to register as a lobbyist retained or employed, and an electronic copy of the contract for services, to the Texas Ethics Commission and post the same information on the political subdivision's web site. Political subdivisions would also be required to report and publish membership fees and dues paid to associations or organizations that lobby. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**  5-5-17 H Referred to House Committee on House General Investigating and Ethics

SB 452  Hancock, Kelly(R)
          Parker, Tan(R)

Relating to the effect of certain agreements with a collective bargaining organization on certain state-funded public work contracts.

**Companions:**  HB 648  Parker, Tan(R)  (Identical)

4-13-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Economic and Small Business Development

**Remarks:**  Senate Engrossed: This bill would require that a governmental entity, including public school districts, that award public works contracts funded with state money or bond proceeds that are guaranteed by the state to be neutral with respect to prospective contractors’ collective bargaining agreements. An entity could not prohibit or require a contractor from entering into collective bargaining agreements. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, it is effective September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**  5-16-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Economic and Small Business Development

SB 457  Campbell, Donna(R)

Relating to funding for an open-enrollment charter school based on the guaranteed level of state and local funds.
provided to school districts through the existing debt allotment.

**Companions:** HB 2337 Dutton, Harold(D) (Identical) 3-28-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill would award per ADA funding to open enrollment charter schools equal to the state guarantee level for facilities funding multiplied by the state average I&S tax rate. A Senator Watson amendment cut the funding from $400 million to $100 million, splitting it between charters and ISDs (EDA program yield increase). This amounts to about $200/ADA for charter schools and an $1-$2 yield increase for EDA. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**SB 460** Lucio, Eddie(D) Murphy, Jim(R) Relating to general obligation bonds issued by political subdivisions.

**Companions:** HB 3336 Murphy, Jim(R) (Identical) 4-24-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Investments and Financial Services

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill creates new requirements for political subdivisions, including school districts, to issue bonds for construction of buildings or the acquisition of personal property. It requires the posting of a sample ballot for authorization to issue bonds on the school district web site. It prohibits the placement of early voting polling places in a manner intended to affect the outcome of the bond election. It requires that the reasonably expected average economic life of the building or personal property be at least 120% as long as the maturity date of the bond. It restricts the use of bond proceeds to the specific purposes for which the bonds were issue or the retirement of debt, or other projects if approved in a subsequent election. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5- 8-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Investments and Financial Services

**SB 461** Lucio, Eddie(D) Murphy, Jim(R) Relating to the notice required before the issuance of certain debt obligations by political subdivisions.

**Companions:** HB 3335 Murphy, Jim(R) (Identical) 5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill requires that bond propositions contain the taxes to be imposed on a homestead of $100,000 to pay the proposed debt. Requires polling locations to provide upon request and school districts to post to their website an informational card that displays outstanding and new debt, including principal and interest. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Elections

**SB 463** Seliger, Kel(R) Relating to the use of individual graduation committees to
SB 467  Lucio, Eddie(D)  
Alvarado, Carol(D)  
Relating to a requirement for a ballot proposition.

Remarks: As engrossed by Senate: This bill would require that the language of a proposition identify the proposition’s chief features such that voters are not misled. Effective date: Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-11-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Elections

Companions:  HB 3684  Alvarado, Carol(D)  (Identical)
5-12-17 H Withdrawn from the Local Calendar

SB 490  Lucio, Eddie(D)  
Huberty, Dan(R)  
Relating to information regarding the number of school counselors in public schools.

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: The bill would require the commissioner to collect and report (in PEIMS) the number of full-time equivalent school counselors providing 40 hours of counseling services a week at each campus. Effective date: Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, the bill takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.
SB 515  Taylor, Van(R)

Relating to the right of certain public officers to access public information, documents, records, and property.

Companions:  HB 3271

Shaheen, Matt(R)  (Identical)

5-28-17 H Introduced and referred to committee
on House General Investigating and Ethics

Remarks:  As passed by Senate Committee: Grants rights of access to a member of the governing body of a political subdivision (including school board member) to public information and access to any property owned or leased by or under exclusive control of the state governmental body to which the member is appointed. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-8-17 H Referred to House Committee on House General Investigating and Ethics

SB 518  Miles, Boris (F)(D)

Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that employ certain students in certain paid internship or similar programs.

Companions:  HB 595

Workman, Paul(R)  (Identical)

5-5-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Ways and Means

Remarks:  Senate engrossed: A taxable entity may claim a tax credit not to exceed $1,000 for each student who completes a paid internship that meets curriculum requirements for an endorsement given to certain high school students. The rules regarding these requirements will be adopted by the Texas Workforce Commission after consultation with the Commissioner of Education. This credit may be claimed only for programs that are located or based in Texas. The credit may not be claimed if the owner of the taxable entity is related to the eligible student. Final Senate language includes a cap of $5 million per biennium on tax credits, and requires the Texas Comptroller to adopt rules so that taxable entities receive credits on a first-come, first-served basis. The final Senate language also includes a requirement for a biennial study and report to the legislature, to be conducted by Texas Southern University, with the first such report due on Dec. 1, 2018. Finally, the engrossed bill includes a final paragraph that mentions an "internship or similar program," which seems to be an expansion - or at least an increase in flexibility - relative to the original bill language. Effective date: January 1, 2018.

Last Action:  5-2-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Ways and Means

SB 529  Lucio, Eddie(D)
Gonzalez, Mary(D)

Relating to improving training and staff development for primary and secondary educators to enable them to more effectively serve all students.

Companions:  HB 2209

Gonzalez, Mary(D)  (Identical)

5-4-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

Remarks:  Senate engrossed: The commissioner of education is
required to implement the provisions in this bill only if funds are appropriated to so; otherwise implementation is a commissioner decision. The bill defines "universal design for learning" to mean a "scientifically valid framework for guiding educational practice" that provides for instructional flexibility, provides appropriate accommodations, and maintains high academic expectations for all students, including students with disabilities and students of limited English proficiency. The rest of the bill updates much of Chapter 21 to ensure that teacher candidates are knowledgeable of disabilities and prepared to use evidence-based inclusive instructional practices, such as universal design for learning principles, multitiered systems of support, etc., to ensure instructional inclusion of all students, including those with disabilities. The attention to students with disabilities is incorporated into educator preparation program accountability and into principal certification program requirements. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

**SB 537**  Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Lozano, Jose(R)

Relating to requiring the disclosure of special course fees at public institutions of high education.

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill requires institutions of higher education to list any special course fees (e.g., lab or online access) to be charged for a course. Effective date: Effective immediately if passed by two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise, if passed, it takes effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Higher Education

**SB 576**  Huffman, Joan(R)

Relating to a reporting requirement for certain incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, family violence, or stalking at public institutions of higher education.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill concerns the reporting of incidents of higher education student or employee abuse. The bill would require employees of institutions of higher education or highest ranking members of student organizations to report to the institution's CEO incidents of sexual harassment, sexual assault, family violence or stalking perpetrated against perpetrated against students or employees of the institution, unless requested otherwise by the victims. These reporting students or employees must not allow or ask others to make the report. Also, they make their report within 48 hours of finding out about the incident, and, if possible, include victims' names and addresses and other pertinent information about the victims within their report. Reporting individuals and those that assist in investigations or judicial proceedings would be given immunity.

If an individual knowingly fails to make a report, he/she can be charged with a Class B misdemeanor. If an individual intends to conceal the report, he/she can be charged with a Class A misdemeanor. If the individual purposely makes a false report, he/she can be convicted of a state felony.
The identity of the reporting individual will be kept confidential until judicial or investigative proceedings merit that the individual be identified. The employers of reporting individuals are forbidden from retaliating. Coordinating boards of these institutions of higher education must provide and require training about making such reports. In addition, CEOs must at least twice a year make a report to the institution’s governing body. This bill is governed by appropriate federal laws like FERPA and Title IX. Effective dates: This bill is effective Sept. 1, 2017 to be applied during the 2018-19 school year.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

**Companions:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Bill</th>
<th>Sponsor</th>
<th>Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SB 585</td>
<td>West, Royce(D)</td>
<td>Relating to the opportunity of certain patriotic societies to present information regarding the society to public school students during regular school hours.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td><strong>Remarks:</strong> Senate engrossed: At the beginning of each school year, principals of public school campuses are to provide opportunity to patriotic youth membership organizations, listed in Title 36 of the United States Code (e.g., Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, Boys &amp; Girls Clubs, etc.), to speak to students during regular school hours about membership. The principal has discretion over the date and time, but a given patriotic society’s presentation to students is limited to 10 minutes on one school day. Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.</td>
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<td><strong>Last Action:</strong> 5-17-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Huffines, Donald(R)</td>
<td><strong>Companions:</strong> HB 545 Anderson, Doc(R) (Identical) 5-2-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SB 610</td>
<td>Taylor, Van(R)</td>
<td>Relating to equal opportunity for access by home-schooled students to University Interscholastic League sponsored activities.</td>
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<td><strong>Remarks:</strong> As engrossed by Senate: this bill would allow home-schooled students to participate in UIL activities, as long as they are in good academic standing as determined by their parents, demonstrate grade-level proficiency on a norm-referenced test, and were not previously enrolled in public</td>
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<td><strong>Last Action:</strong> 5-18-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education</td>
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<td><strong>Companions:</strong> HB 1323 Frank, James(R) (Identical) 4-27-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Relating to improper relationships between educators or
certain other school personnel and students.

First, the bill creates a registry of people barred from
working at a school. The registry would include people
whose licenses had been revoked as well as individuals not
previously eligible for employment because of their criminal
records.

Second, the bill strengthens the laws governing school
employees who abuse students or are involved in
relationships with students. The bill sets up a way for
school professionals to confidentially report student abuse
by an educator or improper educator-student relationships
to CPS. Also, in addition to the superintendent, the bill
requires a principal of a traditional public school or director
of a charter school to notify the State Board for Educator
Certification if they gain knowledge of a criminal act or
abuse conducted by a prospective, current or former
educator or person in a certified role that has contact with
or was engaged in actions related to the
superintendent/director/principal's campus.

This superintendent/principal/director is then required to
investigate the educator or person in question and file a
confidential report, including the name of the student
victim, with the State Board of Educator Certification or
the commissioner of education within one week of finding
out about the potential crime or misconduct. Any
superintendent/director/principal that fails to make a
required report could face sanctions. The bill goes on to
describe resulting hearings and penalties that a convicted
employee could face (this includes suspension of pay,
revocation of a teaching license and the loss of entitlement
to TRS retiree payments).

The bill also grants the authority for the agency to approve
or deny the employment of any person with direct,
unsupervised contact students based upon their criminal
record or presence on the registry.

Third, schools must author policies that prevent the
improper one-on-one electronic communication between
employees and students.

In addition, teacher preparation programs must educate
their students about preventing, recognizing and reporting
incidents of improper student-teacher relationships and
abuse of students by educators. Districts of innovation can
lose their title as districts of innovation if they hire or fail to
terminate employees convicted of these offenses.
Furthermore, anyone that helps someone who previously lost their position at a school because he/she was convicted of sexual misconduct with a student obtain a new job may be convicted of a Class C misdemeanor.

With some exceptions, this bill would take immediate effect with a two-thirds vote; otherwise, it would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House General Investigating and Ethics

### SB 693
**Garcia, Sylvia(D)**  
**Phelan, Dade(R)**  
Relating to three-point seat belts on buses that transport schoolchildren.

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: The bill would add "multifunction school activity bus" and "school-chartered bus" to the vehicles that are required to have three-point seat belts. The requirement would apply only to vehicles of the model year 2017 or later. And the School Board would have authority to determine district budget does not permit purchase of equipped buses for 2018 or older vehicles. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Passed to third reading (Vote: Y: 91/N: 43)

### SB 719
**Zaffirini, Judith(D)**  
**Raney, John(R)**  
Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect and study data on the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in workforce education.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect data regarding the participation of individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities in workforce education programs. This bill would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

### SB 725
**Miles, Borris (F)(D)**  
**Bernal, Diego(D)**  
Relating to the authority of a school district to donate food to a nonprofit organization to be served to students of the district.

**Companions:**  
**SB 755**  
Menendez, Jose(D)  
(Identical)  
4-10-17 S Committee action pending Senate Agriculture, Water, and Rural Affairs

**Remarks:** As filed: A school district may allow a campus to elect to donate food to a nonprofit organization through an official of the nonprofit organization who is directly affiliated with the campus, including a teacher, counselor, or parent of a student enrolled at the campus. The donated food may be received, stored, and distributed on the campus at any time. The commissioner must adopt rules to implement the bill. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar

### SB 736
**Hancock, Kelly(R)**  
**Clardy, Travis(R)**  
Relating to the authority of the General Land Office to sell retail electric power.
Companions: HB 1685  Clardy, Travis(R) (Identical)
        4-12-17 H Committee action pending House Land
        and Resource Management

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

Companions: HB 4027  Allen, Alma(D) (Identical)
        5-12-17 H Withdrawn from the Local Calendar

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: This bill updates the language regarding
        transition planning for a public school student
        enrolled in a special education program.

Relating to transition planning for a public school student
enrolled in a special education program.

Companions: SB 748  Zaffirini, Judith(D)
        Allen, Alma(D)

Remarks:  Last Action: 5-17-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

Relating to the extension and modification of a public school
district depository contract.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would allow a school district to extend a
depository contract for three (not two) additional two-year
terms if both the bank and school district agree. This act would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Passed to third reading

**SB 801**  
**Seliger, Kel(R)**  
Relating to the instructional material list and supplemental instructional materials adopted by the State Board of Education.

**Companions:**  
**HB 1857**  
King, Ken(R)  
(Identical)  
4-25-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: Both regular and supplemental instructional materials must be free from factual errors and be suitable for the subject and grade level for which they are being considered. The material should also be reviewed by academic experts in the subject and grade level. Effective date: September 1, 2017; applies only to instructional material lists and supplemental instructional material adopted on or after September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**SB 802**  
**Seliger, Kel(R)**  
Relating to a study and report regarding best practices in the provision of dual credit courses by public institutions of higher education and the transfer of course credit.

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: By September 1, 2018, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is to prepare a report to the legislature about best practices in ensuring that dual credit courses provided by an institution of higher education (IHE), and courses transferred to an IHE for course credit, are accepted as credits towards a degree program at the IHE. The study must evaluate the articulation agreements through which IHEs provide dual credit courses to school district students, or that govern transfer of course credit between IHEs, and identify the IHEs that are implementing the best practices identified by the study. The report is to be provided to the legislator no later than November 1, 2018. The provisions in the bill expire on Sept. 1, 2019. Effective date: Takes immediate effect with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Higher Education

**SB 810**  
**Kolkhorst, Lois(R)**  
**Howard, Donna(D)**  
Relating to the use of open educational resources.

**Remarks:** As filed: If an institution of higher education or a college bookstore publishes a textbook list with a course schedule on an Internet website that provides a search function, the institution or bookstore must: ensure that the search function permits a search based on whether a course or section of a course requires or recommends only open educational resources; or provide a searchable list of courses and sections of courses that require or recommend only open educational resources. Effective Immediate effect with two-thirds vote, or September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education
SB 825        Taylor, Larry(R)        Relating to school district discretion to administer college preparation assessment instruments to public school students at state cost.

Companions: HB 2614        Huberty, Dan(R)        (Identical)
5-18-17 S Committee action pending Senate Education

Remarks: Committee report: Rather than requiring districts to administer preliminary college preparatory assessment instruments annually to students in eighth and tenth grades, the bill gives districts the option to administer these tests at state cost. (It makes the language more consistent with the students’ option to take a college admissions test in spring of eleventh or at any time in twelfth grades at state cost.) Effective date: Applies to SY 2017-18. Takes immediate effect with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 828        Seliger, Kel(R)        Relating to certain academic programs and projects undertaken by public institutions of higher education at an off-campus academic or research site or a similar location.

Remarks: As filed: A degree or certificate program offered at an off-campus academic or research site is considered a new degree or certificate program if not previously offered at the off-campus academic or research site. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-9-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 837        Seliger, Kel(R)        Relating to requirements for student elections to authorize or increase certain fees at public institutions of higher education.

Remarks: As filed: This bill defines the requirements for participation in student fee elections. A student fee election is not valid unless at least 10 percent of students that are enrolled participate. Those who participate in the program have to have completed less than 75 percent of their undergraduate degree or 36 hours of their master’s degree. This bill would be effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-12-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

Companions: HB 836        Claridy, Travis(R)        (Identical)
5-1-17 S Received in the Senate

Remarks: As filed: The bill requires higher education institutions to provide students with information on the estimate of the total amount of education loans previously incurred by the student; an estimate of the total payoff amount, estimate of monthly payment, and an estimate of the percentage of
the education loan borrowing limit. Effective date: The bill applies with the beginning of the 2018-2019 academic year.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar

**SB 936**  
**Legislators:** Huffman, Joan(R)  
**Remarks:** Relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to undertake a study of the public retirement systems of this state.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Pensions

**SB 968**  
**Legislators:** Watson, Kirk(D)  
**Remarks:** Relating to requiring certain public and private institutions of higher education to provide amnesty to students who report incidents of sexual assault.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar

**SB 969**  
**Legislators:** Watson, Kirk(D)  
**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would give students reporting incidents of sexual assault at an institution of higher education amnesty (including incidents of criminal wrongdoing, if institution policy does not otherwise address such circumstances) when making the report. With a two-thirds vote, the bill would be effective immediately; otherwise, the bill becomes effective September 1, 2017, if passed.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar
SB 970  Watson, Kirk(D) Howard, Donna(D)  Relating to a sexual assault policy at public and private institutions of higher education.

Companions: HB 3818  Howard, Donna(D) (Identical)
3-30-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

Last Action: 5- 3-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

Remarks: Senate engrossed: After September 1, 2017, the commissioner is no longer required to maintain the TAKS exit-level assessments for students who, in SY 2011-12, were enrolled in grade levels above the ninth grade or were repeating the ninth grade in that year. (STAAR end-of-course tests were required for graduation for all first-time ninth graders in SY 2011-12.) The commissioner is further authorized to establish cut points on the SAT or ACT tests that are equated to the passing standard on the TAKS tests. Students subject to TAKS as a graduation examination requirement may satisfy that requirement, and qualify to receive a high school diploma, either by retaking and passing relevant portions of the TAKS or by performing satisfactorily on the SAT or ACT tests. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 1005  Campbell, Donna(R)
         Geren, Charlie(R)  Relating to the use of the SAT or the ACT as a secondary exit-level assessment instrument to allow certain public school students to receive a high school diploma.

Companions: HB 382  Murphy, Jim(R) (Identical)
4-25-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Ways and Means

Remarks: As filed: This bill would exempt from property tax those properties leased to an open-enrollment charter school. the owner would be required to indicate the reduction in rent due to the exemption, and the property would have to be used for educational purposes. The bill would go into effect January 1, 2018, but only if a related constitutional amendment is adopted.

Last Action: 5- 8-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Ways and Means

SB 1061  Taylor, Larry(R)
         Murphy, Jim(R)  Relating to the powers and duties of the commissioner of education regarding granting additional charters for open-enrollment charter schools.

Companions: HB 1023  Simmons, Ron(R) (Identical)
5- 8-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

Remarks: As filed: This bill would authorize the grant of multiple open-enrollment charters to individual charter holders if the purpose of the charters are distinctly different. The bill also creates a minimum of five categories or types of charters to be established under commissioner's rules.
Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, effective September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Not heard in committee House Public Education

**SB 1091**  
Seliger, Kel(R)  
Relating to limitations on courses that may be offered for dual credit by school districts and public institutions of higher education.

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill would limit dual credit courses to those in the core curriculum of the institution of higher education (IHE) providing college credit, a career and technical education course, or a foreign language course. This doesn’t apply to dual credit courses offered as part of the early college education program. IHEs must grant credit to students who achieve required scores on CLEP exams or Advanced Placement (AP) exams. The IHEs must grant credit for the completion of a dual credit course if the course is in the core curriculum of the IHE that offered the course, is a career and technical education course, or if it is a foreign language course. These restrictions do not apply if the dual credit course was completed by a student as part of the early college education program. These rules also apply to public junior colleges. Effective date: The bill would take effect immediately upon a two-thirds vote of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee as substituted House Higher Education

**Companions:** HB 2421  
Howard, Donna(D) (Identical)

**5-12-17 H Withdrawn from the Local Calendar**

**SB 1119**  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Howard, Donna(D)  
Relating to an annual report on employment positions provided through the Texas college work-study program.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar

**SB 1122**  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Huffines, Donald(R)  
Relating to abolishing certain county boards of education, boards of county school trustees, and offices of county school superintendent.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the dissolution of county boards of education in counties with more than 2.2 million population adjacent to a county with 600,000 population. The bill sets out a process to be followed by a dissolution committee, and the dissolution would be effective by September 1, 2018. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**SB 1123**  
Zaffirini, Judith(D)  
Relating to conditions on the receipt of tuition and fee exemptions at public institutions of higher educations for adopted students formerly in foster or other residential care.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Higher Education

**SB 1151**  
Buckingham, Dawn (F)(R)  
Relating to the protection of expressive activities at public institutions of higher education.
Relating to excused absences from public school for the purpose of pursuing enlistment in a branch of the armed services of the United States or the Texas National Guard. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately upon a vote of two-thirds of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Remarks: House committee report: This bill would give parents a right to information and to records regarding the provision of assistance for learning difficulties to their child. This would include any interventions above those used in general with all children, including response to intervention (RTI) and other early intervention strategies. TEA is required to give districts a written explanation of options and requirements for giving assistance to students with learning difficulties or who may need special education, including that parents are entitled to request an evaluation of their children for special education services and for aids, accommodations or services under Section 504. Each school year, a district must notify a parent of each child receiving assistance from the district for learning difficulties that is to be written in English or the parent's native language (to the extent practicable), which includes a reasonable description of the assistance, information collected about any “base tier” interventions previously used with the student, an estimate of the duration for which the assistance will be provided, the estimated dates for when progress reports will be provided to the parent, and a copy of the explanation that TEA provided to the district (the explanation can be handed to the parent at a 504 meeting, if applicable). The commissioner will require that each district report the number of students receiving aids, accommodations or services at any time during the
year under Section 504 through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS). This would begin with the 2017-18 school year. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately upon a vote of two-thirds of the members elected to each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Passed to third reading

**SB 1166**  
**Bettencourt, Paul (R)**  
Relating to providing for the review of certain county departments of education by the Sunset Advisory Commission.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would authorize a review by the Sunset Advisory Commission of a county department of education in a county with a population of four million or more. The review would examine the department's governance, management, operating structure, and compliance with legislative requirements. The review would take place as if the department were scheduled to be abolished September 1, 2019. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5- 9-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**SB 1177**  
**Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)**  
Relating to requirements for charter schools established for the benefit of certain juvenile offenders.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would call for the commissioner to adopt a procedure for a detention, correctional, or residential facility to apply to be an open-enrollment charter. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**SB 1220**  
**Miles, Borris (F)(D)**  
**Vo, Hubert(D)**  
Relating to ensuring continuity of education and access to higher education, career information, and skills certification for foster care youth and former foster care youth.

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill would require that the agency develop procedures to ensure that a new school relies on decisions made by the previous school regarding placement in courses or educational programs of a student who is homeless or in substitute care and places the student in comparable courses or educational programs at the new school if available. The new school should provide comparable services to the student during the referral process or until the new school develops an individualized education program (IEP) for the student. The commissioner may establish rules to facilitate the transition between schools of children who are homeless or in substitute care. The department must create a program to assist foster care youth and former foster care youth in obtaining a high school diploma or equivalency certificate, industry certifications necessary for high-demand occupations, provide career guidance to foster care youth and former foster care youth, and inform them of tuition and fee waivers at institutions of higher education (IHEs) that are available. By September 1, 2018, the department will produce a report that includes recommendations for legislative or other action to further develop the program and submit it to the governor and legislative leadership. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of the members of each
SB 1278  Taylor, Larry (R)  Relating to educator preparation programs.

Companions:  HB 2924  Bohac, Dwayne (R)  (Identical)

4-10-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

Remarks:  As filed: This bill would make changes to the standards governing continuing accountability of teacher prep programs. Compliant programs must allow field supervisor visits to be provided by video or other online connection; cannot require more than five support visits by a supervisor during an internship; and are exempt from providing the results of content examinations for fields that are considered to be "teacher shortage areas." Field experiences for teacher candidates may occur after the candidate's admission to the prep program or in the two years preceding admission. Teacher candidates' Field experiences can be gained through substitute teaching or through service as a teacher's aide.

With a two-thirds vote, the bill becomes immediately effective; otherwise, it would become effective September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

SB 1294  Buckingham, Dawn (F) (R)  Relating to election of professional staff representatives to certain school district planning and decision-making committees.

Remarks:  Senate engrossed: This bill requires specific actions regarding selection/elections of staff representatives for campus-level or district-level committees. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-16-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

SB 1296  Huffman, Joan (R)  Relating to the review of ballot proposition language for certain political subdivisions on elections.

Remarks:  As engrossed by Senate: Bracketed to districts located in a county with a population greater than 120,000. This bill would require that no later than 109 days prior to an election, ballot propositions of political subdivisions receive judicial review by a three judge panel from the administrative judicial region in which the political subdivision is located. The review is for clarity to the average voter. This would apply to bond elections, but not TREs. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Elections

SB 1318  Taylor, Van (R)  Parker, Tan (R)  Relating to designation of mathematics innovation zones by the commissioner of education and to the establishment of pay for success programs to provide necessary funding.

Companions:  HB 2014  Parker, Tan (R)  (Identical)

5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar
Remarks: House committee report: The commissioner is authorized, on application by a district, charter, campus or charter school, to designate a given campus as a mathematics innovation zone. The commissioner may use specifically appropriated or donated funds to award grants to support implementation of innovative mathematics instruction at the campus. The total amount of grants awarded during the biennium is capped at $12.5 million. A campus designated as a mathematics innovation zone must implement with fidelity an innovative mathematics instructional program, approved by the commissioner, that addresses the mathematics TEKS, complies with objectives, metrics, and other math innovation zone requirements imposed by the commissioner, and provides all data relating to the innovation zone requested by the agency. A campus designated as a mathematics innovation zone is not subject to interventions under the state accountability system for the first two years of the designation as long as the campus implements the program with fidelity and complies with each math innovation zone requirement to the satisfaction of the commissioner. This period of exemption from interventions is not included in calculating consecutive years of required improvement or considered a break in consecutive school years of unacceptable ratings. The commissioner may revoke an innovation zone designation and suspend associated grant funding if the commissioner determines that the campus has failed to implement the program with fidelity. A district may use a "pay for success program" (private financing under which payments are contingent on achievement of measurable outcomes) to pay costs associated with the designation of a campus as an innovation zone. If a "pay for success" program is used, the district or charter school is not subject to state procurement requirements that would otherwise apply to innovation zone activity. The commissioner may accept grants, gifts, or donations for innovation zones. The commissioner is granted rule-making authority to administer the program, is immune from liability for "pay for success programs," and commissioner decisions are final and cannot be appealed. Effective date: This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-12-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

Companions: HB 3106 Faircloth, Wayne(R) (Identical) 4-11-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

Remarks: Committee substitute: If funds are appropriated for this purpose, the bill would provide additional state financial assistance to districts, which annex an academically unacceptable district, for 5 years beginning with the year of annexation. The funds are to assist with the costs of facility renovations, repairs, and replacements. The commissioner would determine the amount provided each year by dividing the amount of debt service taxes received by the district preceding the annexation year by the number of students enrolled in the district immediately preceding the date of annexation and multiplying the result by the number of additional students enrolled on
September 1 after the date of annexation. A determination by the commissioner under this section is final and cannot be appealed. The new provisions apply to a district to which territory is annexed due to accountability ratings on or after July 1, 2016. If the legislature does not appropriate funds for this purpose, the commissioner has the option to proceed with implementation using other available appropriated funds. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**
5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Companions:**
- **SB 1398**
  - Lucio, Eddie(D)
  - Thompson, Senfronia(D)
  Relating to the placement and use of video cameras in certain self-contained classrooms or other settings providing special education services.

**Remarks:**
As Senate Engrossed: Modifies the requirements for placement of video cameras in special education classrooms. It adds language to make written requests part of the process. The placement of cameras is clarified as being required only in classrooms in which the subject student is in regular attendance. Cameras would be required only for the duration of the school year, and requestors must submit a new request for a subsequent school year. The bill adds language to protect privacy in restrooms and changing areas. The bill authorizes parents or guardians to view videos of alleged incidents. the bill also clarifies that decisions regarding cameras may be appealed, and that operation of the cameras must begin within 45 days of the approval of a request. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:**
5-18-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

**Companions:**
- **HB 2806**
  - Ashby, Trenton(R)
  (Identical)
  5- 5-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

**Remarks:**
House committee report: The commissioner by rule is to require schools districts and open-enrollment charter schools to report certain information regarding voluntary after-school programs and voluntary summer programs.

Relating to requiring school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to report certain information regarding voluntary after-school programs and voluntary summer programs. The categories of expanded learning opportunities specified in TEC, Ch. 33.252(b) include: rigorous coursework, mentoring, tutoring, physical activity, academic support, or educational enrichment in one or more subjects, including
fine arts, civic engagement, science, technology, engineering and mathematics. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-9-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Companions:** SB 1407  Taylor, Van(R)  
Relating to the information required to be included in or with a school district ad valorem tax bill.

**Remarks:** 3-22-17 H Committee action pending House Ways and Means

This act would go into effect January 1, 2018.

**Last Action:** 5-12-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Ways and Means

**Companions:** SB 1480  Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  Murphy, Jim(R)  
Relating to the guarantee of charter district bonds by the permanent school fund.

**Remarks:** 4-24-17 H Report ed from committee as substituted House Public Education

**Last Action:** 5-9-17 H Report ed favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Companions:** SB 1481  Taylor, Larry(R)  Bohac, Dwayne(R)  
Relating to the instructional materials and technology allotment, open education resource instructional materials, and the State Board of Education long-range technology plan.

**Remarks:** Senate engrossed: This bill would add open education resource materials to the instructional materials and technology allotment for districts. Open education resource materials are teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that allows for free use and can include full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, or software.
Payments may not be made with these funds until the district has submitted and obtained peer review certification for a district technology plan based on the recommendations contained in the plan adopted by the State Board of Education (SBOE). The commissioner will adopt the rules as necessary to create a peer review process to certify a school district's technology plan. When reviewing and adopting instructional materials, the board must consider a school district's need for technology as well as instruction materials and in any biennium may limit the adoption of instructional materials to provide sufficient resources to purchase technology resources, including digital curriculum and include information regarding open education resource instructional materials during the adoption cycle. In selecting instructional materials each year, districts must consider the use of open education resource instructional materials and certify to the SBOE that the district considered the selection of open education resource instructional materials. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

**Companions:** 
**SB 1483** Taylor, Larry(R) - Relating to the creation of the Technology Lending Program to provide grants to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

**HB 4139** Bohac, Dwayne(R) (Identical) - 3-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** Senate Engrossed: This bill would allow the commissioner to establish a grant program under which school districts could implement a technology lending program to provide students access to equipment necessary to access and use electronic instructional materials. Districts would apply to participate in the grant program each school year, and in awarding the grants, the commissioner would consider the availability of existing equipment to students, other funding available to the district, and the district's technology plan. The commissioner would determine the terms of any grants awarded, including limits and approved uses of the funds. The commissioner could also recover any funds not used in accordance with the terms of the grant. By January 1, 2019, the commissioner would review the grant program and submit a report to the governor, lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house, and legislative leadership. This program would expire September 1, 2019. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Companions:** 
**SB 1484** Taylor, Larry(R) - Relating to the creation of an instructional materials web portal by the commissioner of education.

**HB 3487** Huberty, Dan(R) (Identical) - 4-21-17 H Removed from hearing
Remarks: Senate engrossed: By September 1, 2018, the commissioner is required to use a competitive process to contract for the portal's development. Money in the state instructional materials fund is to be used to pay the associated expenses; and the state instructional materials fund can no longer pay for the technology lending grant program. The portal must include general information, such as pricing and computer system requirements, for each item on the approved instructional materials list and for each item submitted by a publisher for inclusion in the portal under a process established in commissioner's rules. The commissioner must contract with a private entity to conduct an independent analysis of each instructional material submitted by a publisher, to evaluate its quality and coverage of the TEKS. Results of the analysis must be posted in the portal. The portal also must include a repository of open educational resources for districts and charters to use at no cost. These open resources can be considered when districts or charters certify that their instructional materials cover all of the TEKS. Effective date: Immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 1553 Menendez, Jose(D) Relating to the refusal of entry to or ejection from school district property.

Remarks: As filed: Adds a requirement to include an explanation of the provisions regarding refusal of entry to or ejection from district property, including the appeal process to the student code of conduct. Effective date: September 1, 2017 or immediate with two-thirds vote.

Last Action: 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 1561 Taylor, Van(R) Relating to a study by the State Board of Education on the instructional day and academic year requirements necessary to complete the required curriculum in public schools.

Remarks: Committee report: If the legislature appropriates funds specifically for this purpose, the bill would require the State Board of Education (SBOE) to conduct a study to determine, for kindergarten through grade 12, the length of the instructional day and of the academic year that would be necessary to allow for the completion of the required curriculum. The results of this study would be delivered to the governor and the legislature by October 1, 2018. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 1566 Kolkerst, Lois(R) Relating to certain powers and duties of the board of trustees of an independent school district and the governing body of

Remarks:
an open-enrollment charter school.

Remarks: Senate engrossed: This bill concerns the powers and duties of the board of trustees of a school district. It would allow school boards to compel a district's chief financial officer or chief academic officer or anyone holding an equivalent position to appear at executive sessions or to testify at public hearings held by the board. A superintendent could not interfere with any appearances or testimony. Districts generally would have to respond to local board requests for information not later than the 20th business day after receipt; if the request is burdensome due to amount, age or location of the information, a district would have to respond within 30 business days after receipt of the request. Districts would have to create policy on local board members' visits to schools or other district facilities. Both school boards and charter governing bodies would be required to provide oversight regarding student academic achievement and strategic leadership for maximizing student performance. On request by the board of trustees, the agency would create a secure Internet website for members of the board to review campus and district academic achievement data. The website also would have to be available to campuses in a similar manner. The website would have to include district information disaggregated by campus, grade, sex, race, academic quarter/semester, and school year, which includes student academic achievement and growth, teacher and student attendance, student discipline records, and the information would have to be updated each quarter of the school year. The commissioner must also provide information that permits a board member to compare the district's academic performance with other districts of similar size and racial and economic demographics. A district must provide requested information to the commissioner for creation of this website and any information received from a district would be considered confidential. The agency could contract with a private entity to build the website. Trustees would have to complete any training required by the SBOE and have this documented in the minutes of the last regular meeting of the board before an election of trustees. The minutes must show whether each trustee is current or deficient in completing required training as of the first anniversary of the date of the respective trustees' election or appointment. If the minutes indicate that a given trustee is deficient, the district would have to post notice of this deficiency on the district's website within 10 business days of the meeting. The posting would have to be maintained until the trustee meets the requirements. The SBOE would require a trustee to complete at least 3 hours of training on evaluating student academic performance every 2 years; new trustees have 120 days following election or appointment to complete the training, which may be completed at a regional education service center or through another authorized provider. A provider would have to certify the completion of training by either trustees or candidates. A trustee candidate could complete the training before being elected. The commissioner would develop a board of trustees improvement and evaluation tool to assist school districts in improving board oversight and academic achievement. Boards could determine whether to use the evaluation tool, but the commissioner could compel the use of the tool if the district were to not meet accreditation criteria for academic or financial reasons, not meet academic performance standards (i.e.,
be rated as a "D" or "F"), or the commissioner were to find it appropriate based on a special accreditation investigation. Campus turn-around plans would have to include detailed descriptions for implementing school board oversight of academic achievement and student performance. Effective date: This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**SB 1605** Creighton, Brandon(R) Relating to the availability of certain school district financial information on certain districts' Internet websites.

**Companions:** HB 3597 Fallon, Pat(R) (Identical) 3-30-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill requires the largest 50 school districts to maintain a database of its finances on its web site. The database must contain total dollar amounts and per student amounts for total expenditures, total revenue, and total revenue from property taxes, and the total FTE positions. In a searchable format, these districts must also post five years of budgets that each identifies the names of accounts and "divisions of all money held or disbursed by the district", all revenues and expenditures, and all combined accounts. These districts must also post five years of annual financial reports, each checking account transaction (including amounts, payee, dates and purpose) along with monthly, quarterly, and semi-annual totals, all electronic funds transfers, all payroll direct deposits, and any bond or loan payments. Districts must post "visualization charts" for financial trends for the past five years, and other details. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**SB 1634** Taylor, Larry(R) Burkett, Cindy(R) Relating to a reduction in required days of service for educators in public schools under certain circumstances.

**Companions:** HB 1114 Burkett, Cindy(R) (Identical) 4-25-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As passed by committee: This bill would allow districts that provide fewer than 180 days of instruction the ability to reduce the required number of teaching days for a teacher without reducing the educator's salary. The reduction in teaching days would be proportional to the number of days of school the district provides. If this bill receives a two-thirds vote, it is effective immediately. Otherwise, it would take effect Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5- 9-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

**SB 1649** Watson, Kirk(D) Moody, Joe(D) Relating to an enhanced penalty for repeated criminal trespass on or in the property of a public institution of higher education.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Criminal Jurisprudence
SB 1658   Taylor, Larry (R)  
Relating to the ownership, sale, lease, and disposition of property and management of assets of an open-enrollment charter school.

Companions:  HB 3615  Huberty, Dan (R)  
(Identical)  
3-30-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Public Education

Remarks:  As filed: This bill deals with the financial management of charter schools and the disposition of the assets of charter schools when they cease operation. The bill also establishes guidelines and limits for certain transactions involving affiliated companies. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 1659   Taylor, Larry (R)  
Relating to the commissioner of education accepting contributions for the public school system, adopting rules regarding grant compliance, and establishing grants for high-quality educational programs.

Remarks:  Senate engrossed: This bill would allow the commissioner to accept gifts, grants, donations, or other contributions on behalf of the public school system or agency and unless otherwise specified by the donor, use the contribution in the manner that the commissioner would determine. The commissioner is authorized to adopt rules to ensure that 1) recipients of state-funded grants are in compliance, and 2) grant recipients provide TEA with information that documents grant compliance. The commissioner may direct agency staff to make site visits to corroborate compliance. If it is determined that a grant recipient is not in compliance, the commissioner could seek remittance of the grant funds or withhold state funding in an amount sufficient to recover the funds. Any commissioner decisions regarding compliance would be final and could not be appealed. This bill also directs the commissioner to establish a competitive grant program to assist districts in implementing high-quality educational programs. Grant funds may be used by a recipient only to implement a high-quality educational program or to enhance an existing program so it can operate as a high-quality program. In selecting grant recipients, the commissioner must consider availability of current resources, including funds and equipment, to students in the district or open-enrollment charter school. Commissioner rules may include procedures to authorize grant recipients to spend the funds on remodeling current facilities and performance-based incentives. Decisions concerning the amount of grant funds awarded would be final and could not be appealed. The bill has no effect unless the legislature also passes SB 1658, which deals with facilities funding for charter schools. Implementation is optional if no funds are appropriated for this bill. Effective date: If passed and if SB 1658 also passes, the bill takes effect on September 1, 2017.

Last Action:  5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

SB 1660   Taylor, Larry (R)  
Relating to the calculation of average daily attendance for dropout recovery charter schools.
SB 1663  Huffman, Joan(R)  Flynn, Dan(R)

Relating to contributions to, benefits from, late fees imposed by, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: As filed: Provides for technical and clarifying changes to laws regulating TRS so that TRS can efficiently deliver benefits Effective date: Generally, the bill is effective September 1, 2017, but select provisions would take effect immediately if the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Pensions

Companions: HB 4078  Flynn, Dan(R) (Identical)
5-1-17 H Committee action pending House Pensions

SB 1664  Huffman, Joan(R)  Flynn, Dan(R)

Relating to contributions to, benefits from, membership in, and the administration of systems and programs administered by the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: As filed: Make technical changes to education code, according to fiscal note, including requiring certain factors to be considered in determining whether a school district's health coverage is comparable to specified basic health coverage. Deletes existing text requiring the board of trustees (board) of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas (TRS) to adopt rules to determine whether a school district's group health coverage is comparable to the basic health care coverage specified by this subsection, and deletes existing text requiring the rules to provide for the consideration of certain factors concerning the district's coverage. Requires each district that does not participate in the program (relating to requiring a district to participate in the uniform group coverage program) to prepare a report addressing the district's compliance. Requires the report to include certain information, including information concerning the ease of completing the report. Deletes existing text requiring each district to report the district's compliance with this section to the executive director of TRS (executive director) not later than March 1 of each even-numbered year in the manner required by the board of TRS, and deletes existing text requiring the report to include information concerning the ease of completing the report, as required by the executive director and any other information considered appropriate by the executive director. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Pensions
SB 1665  Hoffman, Joan(R)  
Flynn, Dan(R)  

Relating to the investment authority of the Teacher Retirement System of Texas.

Remarks: As filed: This bill would make permanent the provision that allows 30% of the Teacher Retirement System to be managed by an external investment manage. It also repeals the provision that allows the board of trustees to buy and sell the following: futures contracts; options; options on futures contracts;forward contracts;swap contracts, including swap contracts with embedded options;any instrument or contract intended to manage transaction or currency exchange risk in purchasing, selling, or holding investments; and any other instrument commonly used by institutional investors to manage institutional investment portfolios. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Pensions

SB 1696  Lucio, Eddie(D)  

Relating to a study on participation of public schools in a universal lunch program offered through the United States Department of Agriculture.

Remarks: Committee substitute: There were several substantive changed made in this bill compared to the original language; these include making the reporting process outlined below a permanent annual process that includes informing the legislature about which districts (rather than how many) are not participating in the program along with potential cost savings. This bill would require that no later than March 1 of each odd-numbered year, the agency, with assistance from the Department of Agriculture, conduct a study to determine which school districts and open-enrollment charters would be eligible to provide a universal lunch to all students through participation in the Community Eligibility Provision (CEP) administered by the USDA. No later than May 1 of each odd-numbered year, the agency would be required to notify each district and charter school that is eligible to participate in the CEP and then direct each one that does *not* participate in CEP to perform an economic analysis of cost savings that would result from participation in the program and report those results to the agency no later than November 15 of each even-numbered year. If the local analysis indicates cost savings would result from participation, the district or school "must consider" participating in CEP; and if the CEP isn’t implemented by those districts/schools, they must notify TEA of their non-participation and provide details stating the reason for that decision. Not later than January 31 of each even-numbered year, the agency would have to submit a report to the legislature with the list of districts and charters eligible to participate in CEP and the potential cost savings to each district or charter that could result from participation. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house, otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

SB 1781  West, Royce(D)  
Gonzalez, Mary(D)  

Relating to the regulation of certain degree-granting postsecondary educational institutions by the Texas Higher
SB 1784  Taylor, Larry(R)  
Huberty, Dan(R)  
Relating to state-developed open education resources for public schools.

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: This bill would update the term “open-source instructional materials” to “open education resources” in the list of acceptable items for which the instructional materials allotment may be used. “Open education resources” means teaching, learning, and research resources that reside in the public domain or have been released under an intellectual property license that permits the free use of the resource with others, including full courses, course materials, modules, textbooks, streaming videos, tests, software, or any other tools, materials, or techniques used to support access to knowledge, including a state developed open education resource. A state-developed open education resource may include content not owned by the state and for which preexisting rights may exist if the content is in the public domain, can be used under a limitation of copyright law, or is licensed to the state as an open education resource. To encourage the use of state-developed open education resources, the commissioner would provide a license to allow for the free use by any person, with any restrictions or guidelines determined by the commissioner. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 1786  Hall, Bob(R)  
Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter schools.

Remarks: As filed: This bill prohibits charters from engaging in collective bargaining. With a two-thirds vote, the bill becomes immediately effective; otherwise, it goes into effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Vote failed in committee on House Public Education

SB 1794  Menendez, Jose(D)  
Relating to the elimination of a specific requirement that certain school districts develop and implement a plan to increase enrollment of the district’s students at institutions of higher education.

Remarks: Senate engrossed: This bill would eliminate the specific requirement that districts who are in the lowest 10 percent of high schools in the state enrolling students in institutions of higher education (IHEs) develop and implement a plan to increase enrollment of the district’s
students at institutions of higher education. Effective date: This bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

**SB 1799**  
West, Royce(D)  
Relating to the student loan default prevention and financial aid literacy pilot program.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Higher Education

**Companions:**  
**SB 1813**  
Buckingham, Dawn (F)(R)  
Turner, Chris(D)  
Relating to common admission application forms for institutions of higher education.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar

**Companions:**  
**SB 1837**  
Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  
Bohac, Dwayne(R)  
Relating to the application of the financial accountability system for open enrollment charter schools to the charter school of a public senior college or university.

**Remarks:**  
As filed: This bill would require all institutions of higher education to use a common application for all admissions. Effective date: With a two-thirds vote, immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar

**Companions:**  
**SB 1838**  
Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  
Relating to the applicability of certain laws to open-enrollment charter school.

**Remarks:**  
House committee report: The financial performance of a charter school operated by a Texas public institution of higher education must be evaluated using only the indicators in commissioner rules that are appropriate. Effective date: Immediate with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Companions:**  
**SB 1839**  
Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  
Relating to the preparation, certification, and classification of public school educators.

**Remarks:**  
As filed: The agency shall provide educator preparation programs with data based on information reported through the PEIMS that enables an educator preparation program
to: (1) assess the impact of the program; and (2) revise the program as needed to improve the design and effectiveness of the program. The agency in coordination with the board shall solicit input from education preparation programs to determine information for educator preparation programs to report through PEIMS.

Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee as substituted House Public Education

Relating to: publishing and distributing to public high school students in grades 10 through 12 the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) test or an alternative vocational aptitude test.

5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee as substituted House Defense and Veteran's Affairs

Remarks: Senate engrossed: This bill would require schools to provide notice (including notice to parents) of, and to annually offer, administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) tests to students in grades 10-12. These students also must be given the opportunity to consult with a military recruiter. The test must be scheduled during normal school hours and at a time that limits conflicts with extracurricular activities. The only schools that may elect to *not* administer the ASVAB are those offering an alternative test that meets several criteria, including that the test is for a career field that does not require post-secondary education and that the test administration is free. The bill's requirements do not apply to those districts, charters or high schools that had entered into a contract before 9/1/2017 to administer a vocational aptitude test that does not meet the same criteria as pertinent to alternative vocational aptitude tests, and the exception only applies until the term of the contract expires. Finally, the bill would require TEA to publish, by August 1 each year, the list of districts and charter schools that elected to not provide the ASVAB.

Effective date: Applies to SY 2017-18. Takes effect immediately with a 2/3 vote in each house. Otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

Relating to: the development of transferable degree or certificate program curricula for which qualified veterans or military service members may be awarded course credit based on military service.

Companions: HB 2673 (Identical) 3-30-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Higher Education

Relating to: requiring the review of public school district paperwork to limit paperwork requirements.

Companions: HB 4112 (Identical) 3-31-17 H Introduced and referred to committee
Remarks: As filed: This bill requires the campus planning and site-based decision-making committees to review paperwork burdens at least once every 6 months and make recommendations to the school board to transfer paperwork burdens to noninstructional personnel. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-17-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

Remarks: Relating to a report regarding certain health and safety information prepared by the Texas Education Agency.

Companions: HB 3439 Koop, Linda(R) (Identical) 5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar

Remarks: Senate engrossed: This bill would require the agency to prepare a report of information received from districts regarding physical education and publish it on the agency's website within 1 year of receiving the data. The report must include the number of PE classes offered at each campus and detail the number of days, classes, and minutes offered each week by each campus, the ratio of students enrolled in PE classes compared to overall enrollment, the average PE class size, the number of PE teachers in the district who are licensed, certified, or endorsed by an accredited teacher preparation program to teach PE, whether each campus has the appropriate equipment and adequate facilities required for students to engage in physical activity, whether the district allows modifications or adaptations to allow PE courses to meet the needs of students with disabilities, and whether the district has a policy that allow teachers or administrators to withhold physical activity. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

Remarks: Relating to a school district contract to partner with an open-enrollment charter school to operate a district campus and share education resources.

Companions: SB 1873 Hinojosa, Chuy(D) Wilson, Terry (F)(R) 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

Remarks: House committee report: Implementation of the bill becomes optional if no funds are appropriated for it. The commissioner is given rule-making authority to implement the bill's provisions. The bill allows a local school board to contract with a charter's governing body to have a charter school operate on a given district campus. If the district campus had been rated as unacceptable in the year before the contract takes effect, then the charter-run campus is exempt for its first 2 school years from certain sanctions: 1) the requirement to prepare and submit campus turn-around plans and, by extension, 2) the requirement that the commissioner order either closure or appointment of a board of managers at what would ordinarily be considered the 5th consecutive year of unacceptable ratings. Note that the charter-operated campus would *not* be exempt
from receiving state accountability ratings in those first two years. At any point following the first 2 years of operation, if the affected charter-run campus receives an overall unacceptable rating, the campus may receive an exemption from sanctions if the commissioner approves the exemption. As an aside, this is the first instance we have seen of the commissioner being authorized to waive any part of Ch. 39 in the education code. Current law, TEC Ch. 7.056(e)(3)(B), otherwise prohibits the commissioner from waiving any part of Ch. 39. The charter-run campus also might qualify for additional funding, if there is a favorable difference between the funding that the district ordinarily receives for each student in weighted average daily attendance compared to what the charter school would receive under the same conditions. The only charters eligible for these district contracts are ones that have not had previous charters revoked, and that have met both academic and financial accountability standards for two out of the three prior years. The district must consult with campus personnel about the contract’s provisions before the district enters into the contract. Districts must follow the procedures specified in Subchapter C, Chapter 12 of the education code to establish and operate the charter. The terms of the contract must allow any student in the campus' (pre-contract) attendance zone to enroll in the charter-run campus, and then must allow for enrollment of other in-district and out-of-district students (in that order) to enroll. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective September 1, 2017.

_Last Action:_ 5-9-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

_Relating to the approval of open-enrollment charter schools and the review of challenges by open-enrollment charter schools or school districts to accountability determinations._

_Remarks:_ Senate engrossed: Under this bill, a charter application selection determination could be appealed if an external application review panel selected by the commissioner were provided with: 1) a selection process based on scoring criteria and procedures for their use, and 2) a minimum score necessary for an applicant to be eligible for selection. The State Board of Education (SBOE; not the commissioner of education per earlier versions of the bill) is required to establish procedures for an appeal. The SBOE’s procedures must allow applicants whose scores were within 10 percentage points of the minimum score to appeal. The SBOE’s decision on an appeal would be final, and if the charter applicant prevails, then the commissioner "shall consider" the application. The commissioner could not allow the charter of an open-enrollment charter school to expire if, for one of the school years under consideration, the school was not rated. The commissioner also could not revoke the charter if the school was not rated for one of the years considered. With regard to academic performance or financial accountability ratings, the commissioner’s appeals review committees are required to review any challenge regardless of the basis of the appeal. The commissioner could not limit a challenge relating to a data or calculation error or inaccuracy even if the error or inaccuracy caused the lowered academic or financial accountability rating. To consider such an appeal,
supporting documentation of the error or inaccuracy must be submitted within a year of the deadline to submit a challenge. If the challenge demonstrates that the error or inaccuracy caused the lowered rating, then the commissioner must assign the district or school either 1) the corrected rating or 2) indicate that the district or school is not rated for that school year. The bill *repeals* current law requirements that the commissioner notify the SBOE of proposed charters, and repeals the SBOE's authority to disallow automatic commissioner approval of a proposed charter by voting against it within 90 days of being notified of the proposed charter. The bill also repeals the prohibition on the SBOE's ability to deliberate or vote on any grant of a charter that is not proposed by the commissioner. The bill includes several transition provisions, such as: the SBOE's is to adopt procedures to appeal a charter application selection determination as soon as is practicable, and the ability to appeal ratings based on data errors only applies to ratings "assigned for the 2017-2018 school year or a later school year". We would interpret that to mean ratings issued in summer of 2018 or later. Effective date: Immediate with a two-thirds vote in each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**SB 1886**  
Bettencourt, Paul(R)

Relating to the creation of the office of inspector general at the Texas Education Agency to investigate the administration of public education.

**Remarks:** Senate engrossed: This bill would create the Office of Inspector General (OIG) as a division at the Texas Education Agency. The commissioner must appoint an inspector general to serve as director, who serves until removed by the commissioner. The OIG would be responsible for the investigation, prevention, and detection of criminal misconduct and wrongdoing and of fraud, waste, and abuse in the administration of public education by districts, open-enrollment charter schools, regional education service centers, county systems and other local education agencies in the state. The OIG must investigate allegations of fraud, waste, and abuse or violations of the law. The office could conduct criminal, civil, and administrative investigations and reviews, receive and investigate complaints from any source of its own initiative (i.e., no commissioner approval required), and conduct special accreditation investigations authorized by the commissioner. The inspector general could issue subpoenas, either personally or by certified mail, to compel the attendance of a relevant witness at a hearing or deposition or to compel the production of books, papers, records, documents, or other relevant materials, including electronic data in connection with an investigation, review, hearing, or deposition. Failure to comply could result in legal action against an individual. The OIG may provide information relating to criminal acts to appropriate law enforcement officials and the State Auditor's Office; matters for further civil, criminal and administrative action may be referred to appropriate administrative and prosecutorial agencies, including the attorney general. Special districts and county systems are required to submit annual reports to TEA by Feb. 27 each year. The reports must include a summary of operations and certified financial statements for the preceding fiscal year. The
SB 1901  Campbell, Donna(R)  Huberty, Dan(R)  
Relating to Texas Military Heroes Day in public schools. 

Companions:  HB 3381  Huberty, Dan(R)  (Identical)  
5-12-17 H Withdrawn from the Local Calendar  

Remarks:  House Committee Report: This bill would establish a Texas Military Heroes Day in public schools to be set by the governor. It would include appropriate instruction as determined by each district to educate students about the sacrifices made by brave Texans who have served in the armed forces of the United States. This would apply beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Effective date: This bill would take effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017. 

Last Action:  5-19-17 H Passed to third reading on local calendar 

SB 1942  Hughes, Bryan (F)(R)  Hefner, Cole (F)(R)  
Relating to the transportation or storage of a handgun or other firearm or ammunition by a license holder in a motor vehicle in a parking area of a primary or secondary school. 

Companions:  HB 1692  Hefner, Cole (F)(R)  (Identical)  
5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education  

Remarks:  As filed: Prohibits a school district or charter school from banning persons licensed to carry handguns from keeping handguns, other firearms, or ammunition in personal vehicles parked on school grounds as long as those weapons are not in plain view and the vehicle is locked. Effective date: September 1, 2017. 

Last Action:  5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education 

SB 1963  Creighton, Brandon(R)  
Relating to requirements for educator preparation program support for certain candidates for certification. 

Companions:  HB 2775  Phelan, Dade(R)  (Identical)  
5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar  

Remarks:  As filed, this bill would allow a candidate seeking certification for a non-classroom teacher certification to
SB 1981  Schwartz, Charles(R)
Thompson, Senfronia(D)

Relating to selection of statewide competition locations by the University Interscholastic League.

Companions: HB 2922  Raney, John(R)

As filed: The UIL shall select location for statewide competitions. It shall periodically issue a request for proposal from higher education institutions or other entities seeking to host, including year or years specified in request proposal. The proposal must specify factors in which UIL will select site and require entity to submit relevant information. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

Remarks: Senate Engrossed: This bill would have the commissioner, in cooperation with the human trafficking prevention task force, develop a sexual abuse and sex trafficking prevention instructional modules that a school district may use in the district's health curriculum. The modules may include information on the different forms of sexual abuse and assault, sex trafficking, and risk factors for sex trafficking. It may also include the procedures for reporting such activities, strategies for prevention and overcoming peer pressure, information on establishing healthy boundaries for relationships, the recruiting tactics of sex traffickers including through the Internet, legal issues, and the influence of culture and mass media on the perceptions of sexual abuse and sex trafficking. The modules must emphasize compassion for victims and the creation of a positive reentry experience for survivors. School districts should collaborate with local law enforcement and outside consultants to create a policy and referral protocol. This bill would apply beginning with the 2017-18 school year. Effective date: The bill would take effect immediately upon a vote of two-thirds of all members of each house; otherwise, the bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

SB 2048  Bettencourt, Paul(R)
Morrison, Geanie(R)

Relating to the student loan program administered by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board and to the repeal of a related bond program.
Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Higher Education

SB 2078  Taylor, Larry (R)  
Bonnen, Dennis (R)  
Relating to the duties of school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and the Texas Education Agency regarding multihazard emergency operations plans and other school safety measures.

Remarks: As filed: The bill makes open-enrollment charter schools subject to the school safety requirements in Education Code Sections 37.108, 37.1083, 37.109, 37.112, and 37.207. The bill also adds specific requirements for the district’s multihazard emergency operations plan. TEA is required to adopt a model multihazard emergency operations plan. TEA must also review all plans of districts at least once every two years. The bill adds specific membership requirements for the school safety and security committee. It also requires that the district notify parents of bomb and terroristic threats related to a campus "as soon as possible". Effective date: September 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-18-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

SB 2079  Taylor, Larry (R)  
Relating to a requirement that a student’s postsecondary transcript include the average or median grade awarded in each class.

Companions: HB 1179  Johnson, Jarvis (D)  
(Identical)  
2-21-17 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education

Remarks: Senate engrossed: The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) is to adopt rules that pertain to new information that must be displayed on students’ transcripts beginning with the 2018 spring semester. Specifically, 2-year and 4-year Texas public IHEs must include on students’ transcripts either the average grade or the median grade (with the latter being applicable only to letter grading systems) awarded to all students in the class. The information must be displayed to the right of the individual students’ grades. The requirement does not apply to pass-fail courses, independent study credits, or courses in which there are grades for 10 or fewer students. Effective date: The THECB is to adopt rules by Sept. 1, 2020 to implement the bill. Effective immediately with two-thirds votes in each house; otherwise if passed, effective Sept. 1, 2017.

Last Action: 5-12-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

SB 2080  Taylor, Larry (R)  
Guillen, Ryan (D)  
Relating to a requirement that school districts and open-enrollment charter schools report certain information regarding children with disabilities who reside in residential facilities.

Companions: HB 69  Guillen, Ryan (D)  
(Identical)  
5-11-17 H Set on the House Calendar

Remarks: Senate engrossed: Per commissioner rule, and *only* if funds are appropriated for implementation, this bill would require districts to report in PEIMS the number of children with disabilities residing in a residential facility who must
be tracked in the Residential Facility Monitoring (RFM) system and who receive educational services from the district or school. Effective date: Applies beginning with SY 2017-18. Takes effect September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Public Education

**SB 2084 Taylor, Larry(R)** Relating to attendance of public school students in blended learning programs and attendance through the state virtual school network.

**Remarks:** As filed: The commissioner shall adopt rules to calculate average daily attendance for students participating in a blended learning program in which classroom instruction is supplemented with applied workforce learning opportunities, including participation of students in internships, externships, and apprenticeships. Effective date: September 1, 2017 or immediate with two-thirds vote.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**SB 2086 West, Royce(D)** Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer of students and course credit within the public higher education system.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Higher Education

**SB 2095 Hall, Bob(R)** Relating to regulation of steroid use by students participating in athletic competitions sponsored or sanctioned by the University Interscholastic League.

**Remarks:** As filed: Provides guidelines for UIL and students with respect to steroid use in UIL activities. The UIL will develop form for student and health care provider if steroid use is needed for valid health reasons. UIL to determine whether student in eligible to compete in UIL activity. Effective date: September 1, 2017 or immediate effect with two-thirds vote.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Committee action pending House Public Education

**SB 2118 Seliger, Kel(R) Davis, Sarah(R)** Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

**Companions:** **HB 4092** Davis, Sarah(R) (Identical) 5-5-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Higher Education

**Last Action:** 5-19-17 H Set on the House Calendar

**SB 2122 West, Royce(D)** Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement transfer policy for lower division courses among Texas public institutions of higher education.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating board to develop and implement transfer policy for lower division courses among Texas public institutions of higher education. The core curriculum that they are to develop must be comprised of 39 semester
credit hours and provide the knowledge and academic competencies foundational for all future learning; these credits would be transferable to any other institution of higher education. The Coordinating Board will also identify the state’s top 25 majors among transfer students and identify the lower division courses that are required for those majors and identify which courses are part of the core curriculum and which are not. Students would be required during the first semester of enrollment a degree program they are pursuing. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-17-17 H Committee action pending House Higher Education

**Remarks:** Relating to requirements for providing postsecondary education counseling to high school students.

**SB 2131**

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Reported from committee as substituted House Public Education

**Remarks:** Senate engrossed: This bill creates a database of “Required Lower Division Courses for Specific Majors” for counselors when they provide postsecondary education information to high school students. The database is to include availability of advanced academic programs in the district, and the availability of dual credit and transferability of the dual credit courses to other institutions of higher education. A Senate floor amendment added a requirement that districts and charters, in consultation with their respective school counselors, develop a procedure by which each student's transcript will document any postsecondary advising services provided to the student, including the name of the person or counselor who provided those services. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**SB 2141**

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill would require that an individual serving as a representative of a student in a special education due process hearing agree to a voluntary code of ethics and professional conduct, enter into a confidential written agreement for representation of the student. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**SB 2142**

Relating to the repeal of the high school allotment under the Foundation School Program.

**Remarks:** As filed: Repeals the high school allotment and references to the allotment in other sections of the education code. Effective date: September 1, 2017

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**SB 2143**

Relating to the basic allotment under the foundation school program.

**Companions:** HB 189

Gonzalez, Mary(D) (Identical)
**Remarks:** As passed from committee: The bill increases the basic allotment that appears in general law from $4,765 to $5,140. The higher figure is already in use for the current biennium.

**Last Action:** 5-11-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill establishes the Texas Commission on Public School Finance, charged with making recommendations for improvements to the current school finance system or for a new method of financing public schools. The bill sets out the process for appointment of a 15-member commission, whose report is due by September 1, 2018. Effective date: If the bill receives a two-thirds vote in each chamber, it would be effective immediately; otherwise, September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Voted favorably from committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As filed: A record produced by the board in the course of an investigation involving an alleged incident of educator misconduct, if the record is involving a complaint determined to be groundless, is confidential and not subject to disclosure. Effective date: September 1, 2017.

**Last Action:** 5-16-17 H Referred to House Committee on House Public Education

**Remarks:** As filed: A student who is 18 years of age or older who has met graduation credit requirements and is in an off home campus instructional arrangement is a full-time equivalent student if the student receives 20 hours of contact a week. A student described by this subsection is a part-time equivalent student if the student receives 10 hours or more but less than 20 hours of contact a week. Effective date: 2017-18 school year.

**Last Action:** 5-18-17 H Recommended for Local and Consent Calendar

**Remarks:** As filed: This resolution proposes a constitutional
amendment to exempt from property taxes certain property leased to an open-enrollment charter school. The change would go into effect January 1, 2018. The proposed amendment would appear on the November 7, 2017 ballot.

_Last Action:_ 5-8-17 H Reported favorably from committee on House Ways and Means

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<tr>
<th>Total Bills:</th>
<th>All</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
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