

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1447
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Public Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND

Public input and scrutiny of the textbook adoption process has been limited to the final months of the process. Often, publishers have unclear requirements due to the fact that while the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills dictate the curriculum required in the textbooks, the content of the textbooks is often called into question at the end of the process. There have been circumstances where a book complies with the Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills standards, but the content and effectiveness of the book are unsuitable. Textbooks are often incomplete from a real-world educational perspective, or contain viewpoint discrimination and bias.

PURPOSE

The purpose of C.S.H.B. 1447 is to clarify that the State Board of Education is authorized to determine the content of textbooks.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the State Board of Education in SECTION 1 (Section 31.023, Education Code) of this bill.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 1447 amends the Education Code by requiring that each textbook on a conforming or nonconforming list must be free from errors of commission or omission related to viewpoint discrimination or special interest advocacy on major issues, as determined by the State Board of Education (board). The bill requires the board to adopt guidelines that define general textbook content standards. The bill authorizes the board to determine textbook content, notwithstanding any other provision of law. The bill authorizes the board to reject any textbook that does not comply with the adopted textbook content guidelines or that contains factual or other errors.

These provisions apply only to textbooks adopted by the State Board of Education on or after September 1, 2004.

EFFECTIVE DATE

September 1, 2003.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE

C.S.H.B. 1447 modifies the original version by adding provisions that grant sole and unlimited authority

to the State Board of Education to determine textbook content, notwithstanding any other provision of law. C.S.H.B. 1447 modifies the original version by authorizing rather than requiring the board to reject any textbook that contains factual or other errors or that does not comply with the adopted textbook content guidelines.