

Amend CSHB 1632 on page 5, between lines 22 and 23, by inserting the following new SECTION and renumbering the subsequent SECTIONS accordingly:

SECTION _____. (a) The Commission on Online Learning is established to develop a plan to provide all public school students and teachers in Texas with access to essential educational content and best pedagogical practices to ensure the general diffusion of knowledge promised in Section 1, Article VII, Texas Constitution.

(b) The commission is composed of:

(1) two members of the senate, appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(2) three members of the house of representatives, appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(3) two members of the State Board of Education, appointed by the chair of the State Board of Education;

(4) one person employed by the Texas Education Agency, appointed by the commissioner of education;

(5) two persons employed as the superintendent of a school district, appointed by the governor;

(6) two persons employed as the district technology director or coordinator of a school district, appointed by the governor;

(7) two members employed as the principal of a public school campus or the director of an open-enrollment charter school, appointed by the governor;

(8) three members employed as a teacher by a public school campus or open-enrollment charter school, appointed by the governor;

(9) three members who are business leaders in the high-tech industry, appointed by the governor; and

(10) one member who is a national expert on education technology research, appointed by the governor.

(c) The chair of the Commission on Online Learning shall be selected by the members of the commission.

(d) The Commission on Online Learning shall conduct a study that includes consideration of the following issues:

(1) accessibility on a state-approved Internet

website or another online source of the elements of the essential knowledge and skills identified by the State Board of Education under Section 28.002, Education Code;

(2) curriculum enhancement materials that can be used as stand-alone lessons or teaching aids;

(3) electronic student assessment tools;

(4) test preparation resource tools;

(5) library and other research tools;

(6) electronic professional development tools for teachers;

(7) state budget requirements necessary to achieve the commission's recommendations;

(8) current state policies on online learning;

(9) research-based best practices in online learning from other states and from other countries;

(10) any modifications of state policies that may be needed to achieve the commission's recommendations;

(11) possible partners that could assist the state in enhancing online learning, including other states, the federal government, school districts in Texas, philanthropic foundations, nonprofit organizations, and private companies; and

(12) a specific plan of action for the legislature and the Texas Education Agency to implement the most cost-effective strategy to integrate online learning into the Texas public education system to the benefit of students, teachers, and parents.

(e) The commissioner of education shall enter into an interagency contract with The University of Texas System and shall, to the extent permitted under federal law, transfer to the system, from the state's allotment for educational technology under Title II, Part D, No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Sec. 6751 et seq.), the amount of \$252,671 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2008, and the amount of \$212,670 for the fiscal year ending August 31, 2009. The University of Texas System shall use the transferred funds to pay for the necessary and reasonable expenses of the Commission on Online Learning, including the compensation of any staff necessary to conduct the work of the commission.

(f) A member, committee, or agency of the legislature may

provide staff support and other resources to the Commission on Online Learning. The commission may request assistance and information, other than confidential information, from any state agency, and agencies shall provide the assistance and information requested.

(g) Not later than December 1, 2008, the Commission on Online Learning shall submit a report, including findings, recommendations, and possible legislation, to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives.

(h) The Commission on Online Learning is abolished January 1, 2009.