

By: Patrick

H.B. No. 2261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishing a select committee to review the manner in
3 which textbooks for use in public schools are funded, adopted, and
4 purchased.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 31, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 31.004 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 31.004. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires December 31,
9 2011.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 31, Education Code, is amended by adding
11 Subchapter G to read as follows:

12 SUBCHAPTER G. SELECT COMMITTEE ON TEXTBOOK FUNDING, ADOPTION, AND
13 PURCHASE

14 Sec. 31.301. SELECT COMMITTEE ON TEXTBOOK FUNDING,
15 ADOPTION, AND PURCHASE. (a) The Select Committee on Textbook
16 Funding, Adoption, and Purchase is established to conduct a
17 comprehensive review of the manner in which textbooks are funded,
18 adopted, and purchased.

19 (b) The committee is composed of nine members appointed as
20 follows:

21 (1) the presiding officers of the standing committees
22 of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over
23 public education;

24 (2) the presiding officer of the senate committee with

1 primary jurisdiction over finance, or the member of the senate
2 designated by that presiding officer;

3 (3) the presiding officer of the house of
4 representatives committee with primary jurisdiction over
5 appropriations, or the member of the house of representatives
6 designated by that presiding officer;

7 (4) one member of the house of representatives
8 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

9 (5) one member of the senate appointed by the
10 lieutenant governor;

11 (6) one public member appointed by the speaker of the
12 house of representatives;

13 (7) one public member appointed by the lieutenant
14 governor; and

15 (8) one public member appointed by the governor.

16 (c) Committee members appointed under Subsections
17 (b)(6)-(8) must have knowledge of the public education system and
18 the textbook funding, adoption, and purchase process.

19 Sec. 31.302. CO-CHAIRS; COMMITTEE MEETINGS. (a) The
20 presiding officers described by Section 31.301(b)(1) serve as
21 co-chairs of the committee.

22 (b) Committee meetings shall be held at the call of the
23 co-chairs.

24 Sec. 31.303. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. (a) A member
25 of the committee is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
26 necessary expenses incurred in performing committee duties.

27 (b) A legislative member of the committee is entitled to

1 reimbursement from the appropriate fund of the house of the
2 legislature in which the member serves.

3 (c) A member other than a legislative member is entitled to
4 reimbursement from funds appropriated to the committee.

5 Sec. 31.304. COMMITTEE STAFF. Staff members of the
6 standing committees described by Section 31.301(b)(1) shall serve
7 as the staff of the committee.

8 Sec. 31.305. OBJECTIVES OF REVIEW. (a) The committee
9 shall conduct a comprehensive review of the textbook funding,
10 adoption, and purchase process.

11 (b) A review under this section must include a thorough
12 study of:

13 (1) each element of the textbook funding, adoption,
14 and purchase process prescribed by this chapter;

15 (2) the extent to which relevant materials are aligned
16 with curriculum requirements adopted by the State Board of
17 Education;

18 (3) the methods available for providing instructional
19 materials and content in traditional print format and digital
20 format; and

21 (4) the methods available to improve funding,
22 including alternative methods for funding technology for the
23 delivery of instructional content.

24 (c) The committee shall conduct public hearings throughout
25 the state and solicit testimony about the textbook funding,
26 adoption, and purchase process from parents of public school
27 students and other interested persons. At least one public hearing

1 must be held at a public school during a time that public school
2 students are able to attend the hearing.

3 (d) The commissioner shall ensure that the committee has
4 access to any documentation and agency personnel the committee
5 requests.

6 (e) The Legislative Budget Board, comptroller, state
7 auditor, and any other state agency, official, or personnel shall
8 cooperate with the committee in carrying out its duties under this
9 subchapter.

10 (f) The committee may coordinate the review under this
11 subchapter with any other legislative review or study, as
12 appropriate.

13 Sec. 31.306. REPORT. (a) Not later than December 1, 2010,
14 the committee shall provide a report that:

15 (1) states the findings of the review conducted under
16 this subchapter; and

17 (2) includes any recommendations for statutory
18 changes.

19 (b) The report must be approved by a majority of the
20 committee members. A member who disagrees with any part of the
21 report may attach a dissenting statement to the report.

22 SECTION 3. (a) Officers required to make appointments to
23 the Select Committee on Textbook Funding, Adoption, and Purchase,
24 as established under Subchapter G, Chapter 31, Education Code, as
25 added by this Act, shall make appointments to that committee as soon
26 as possible after the effective date of this Act.

27 (b) The Select Committee on Textbook Funding, Adoption, and

1 Purchase shall hold an organizational meeting not later than
2 October 1, 2009.

3 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
4 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
5 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
6 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
7 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.