

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 200

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements to the public school finance system.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

Sec. 42.601. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission" means the Texas Commission on Public School Finance.

Sec. 42.602. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE.

(a) The Texas Commission on Public School Finance is established to develop and make recommendations for improvements to the public school finance system.

(b) The commission is composed of 18 members, consisting of the following:

(1) three members appointed by the governor;

(2) five members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) five members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) the chair of the senate committee on education, or a representative designated by the chair;

(5) the chair of the senate committee on finance, or a representative designated by the chair;

(6) the chair of the house of representatives

committee on public education, or a representative designated by the chair;

(7) the chair of the house of representatives committee on appropriations, or a representative designated by the chair; and

(8) a member of the State Board of Education, as designated by the chair of that board.

(c) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2), and (3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic diversity of this state and includes at least one of each of the following representatives:

(1) an administrator in the public school system;

(2) an elected member of the board of trustees of a school district;

(3) a public school teacher;

(4) a parent of a child enrolled in a public school;

(5) a person specializing in special education;

(6) a person specializing in bilingual education;

(7) a person specializing in career and technology education;

(8) a member of the higher education community;

(9) a member of the business community; and

(10) a member of the civic community.

Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The members of the commission shall elect the presiding officer by a majority vote.

1 Sec. 42.604. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
2 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the
3 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
4 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

5 Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. (a)
6 Staff members of the agency and staff members of the Legislative
7 Budget Board shall provide administrative support for the
8 commission.

9 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
10 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency
11 and to the Legislative Budget Board for that purpose.

12 Sec. 42.606. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall
13 develop recommendations under this subchapter to address issues
14 related to the public school finance system, including:

15 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system
16 and the relationship between state and local funding in that
17 system;

18 (2) the appropriate levels of local maintenance and
19 operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to
20 implement a public school finance system that complies with the
21 requirements under the Texas Constitution;

22 (3) the appropriate levels of instructional
23 facilities funding; and

24 (4) policy changes to the public school finance system
25 necessary to adjust for inflation, economic conditions, student
26 demographics, and the geographic diversity in the state.

27 (b) The commission may establish one or more working groups

1 composed of not more than five members of the commission to study,
2 discuss, and address specific policy issues and recommendations to
3 refer to the commission for consideration.

4 Sec. 42.607. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2018, the
5 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and
6 the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the
7 public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding
8 to account for student demographics.

9 Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)
10 The commission shall hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its
11 duties under this subchapter.

12 (b) The commission shall make publicly accessible without
13 charge:

14 (1) live Internet video of all public meetings the
15 commission holds; and

16 (2) through the Internet, not later than 24 hours
17 after each meeting the commission holds, a video recording or other
18 electronic visual and audio recording of the meeting.

19 (c) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,
20 Government Code.

21 Sec. 42.609. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF
22 SUBCHAPTER. (a) The commission is abolished January 8, 2019.

23 (b) This subchapter expires January 8, 2019.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the
2 legislative session.