

By: Taylor of Galveston, et al.

S.B. No. 16

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 current public school finance system or for new methods of financing public schools.

(b) The commission is composed of 13 members, consisting of the following:

(1) four members appointed by the governor;

(2) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

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

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

(c) The members appointed by the governor must have an interest in public education and include at least:

1           (1) one person who is a current or retired classroom  
2 teacher with at least 10 years of teaching experience;

3           (2) one person who is a member of the business  
4 community; and

5           (3) one person who is a member of the civic community.

6           (d) The appointments made by the lieutenant governor and the  
7 speaker of the house of representatives must each consist of:

8           (1) three members of the applicable legislative  
9 chamber; and

10           (2) an administrator in the public school system or an  
11 elected member of the board of trustees of a school district.

12           (e) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2),  
13 and (3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the  
14 house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the  
15 membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the  
16 ethnic and geographic diversity of this state.

17           Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
18 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

19           Sec. 42.604. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
20 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
21 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
22 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

23           Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

24           (a) Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative  
25 support for the commission.

26           (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
27 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency

1 for that purpose.

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

5 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system  
6 and the relationship between state and local funding in that  
7 system;

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

12 (3) policy changes to the public school finance system  
13 necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic  
14 diversity in the state.

15 (b) The commission may establish one or more working groups  
16 composed of not more than five members of the commission to study,  
17 discuss, and address specific policy issues and recommendations to  
18 refer to the commission for consideration.

19 Sec. 42.607. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2018, the  
20 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and  
21 the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the  
22 public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding  
23 to account for student demographics.

24 Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

25 (a) The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill  
26 its duties under this subchapter.

27 (b) The commission is subject to Chapters [551](#) and [552](#),

1 Government Code.

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

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

5 SECTION 2. Not later than the 30th day after the effective  
6 date of this Act, the appropriate persons shall make the  
7 appointments and designations required by Section 42.602,  
8 Education Code, as added by this Act.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
13 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
14 legislative session.