

By: Taylor of Galveston, et al.
(King of Parker)

S.B. No. 16

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 16:

By: Bohac

C.S.S.B. No. 16

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the creation of a commission to recommend improvements
3 to the public school finance system.

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

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

7 SUBCHAPTER L. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE

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

10 Sec. 42.602. TEXAS COMMISSION ON PUBLIC SCHOOL FINANCE.

11 (a) The Texas Commission on Public School Finance is established
12 to develop and make recommendations for improvements to the current
13 public school finance system or for new methods of financing public
14 schools.

15 (b) The commission is composed of 15 members, consisting of
16 the following:

17 (1) five members appointed by the governor;

18 (2) five members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

19 and

20 (3) five members appointed by the speaker of the house
21 of representatives.

22 (c) The members appointed by the governor must have a
23 background in public education and include:

24 (1) an administrator in the public school system;

1 (2) a person with a substantive background in state
2 and local taxation;

3 (3) a member of the business community; and

4 (4) a member of the civic community.

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

7 (1) three members of the applicable legislative
8 chamber, including the presiding officer of the standing committee
9 of each chamber with jurisdiction over public education or a
10 representative of the presiding officer designated by the presiding
11 officer;

12 (2) an administrator in the public school system or an
13 elected member of the board of trustees of a school district; and

14 (3) a person who is a current or retired classroom
15 teacher with at least 10 years of teaching experience, provided
16 that one of the persons appointed under this subdivision must
17 specialize or have specialized in special education, bilingual
18 education, or career and technology education.

19 (e) In making appointments, the governor, lieutenant
20 governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall
21 coordinate to ensure that the membership of the commission
22 reflects, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic
23 diversity of this state.

24 Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall
25 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

26 Sec. 42.604. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
27 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the

1 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
2 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

3 Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

4 (a) Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative
5 support for the commission.

6 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
7 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency
8 for that purpose.

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

12 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system
13 and the relationship between state and local funding in that
14 system;

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

19 (3) policy changes to the public school finance system
20 necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic
21 diversity in the state.

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

26 Sec. 42.607. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2018, the
27 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and

1 the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the
2 public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding
3 to account for student demographics.

4 Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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

7 (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,
8 Government Code.

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

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

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

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