

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 must include at least one member of

1 the business community and at least one member of the civic
2 community.

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

5 (1) three members of the applicable legislative
6 chamber; and

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

9 Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall
10 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

11 Sec. 42.604. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of
12 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the
13 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and
14 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

15 Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

16 (a) Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative
17 support for the commission.

18 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses
19 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency
20 for that purpose.

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

24 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system
25 and the relationship between state and local funding in that
26 system;

27 (2) the appropriate levels of local maintenance and

1 operations and interest and sinking fund tax effort necessary to
2 implement a public school finance system that complies with the
3 requirements under the Texas Constitution; and

4 (3) policy changes to the public school finance system
5 necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic
6 diversity in the state.

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

11 Sec. 42.607. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2018, the
12 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and
13 the legislature that recommends statutory changes to improve the
14 public school finance system, including any adjustments to funding
15 to account for student demographics.

16 Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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

19 (b) 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. Not later than the 30th day after the effective
25 date of this Act, the appropriate persons shall make the
26 appointments and designations required by Section 42.602,
27 Education Code, as added by this Act.

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