

By: Sanford

H.B. No. 1253

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the free speech right of a member of a board of trustees of a school district.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 11, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 11.066 to read as follows:

Sec. 11.066. FREEDOM OF SPEECH. The commissioner, the board of trustees of a school district, a member of the board of trustees of a school district, or any administrator of a school district may not interfere or restrict the free speech right, guaranteed by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, of a member of the board of trustees of a school district to publicly express a position regarding or otherwise discuss any issue under consideration or to be considered by the board on which the person serves.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.