

By: Taylor of Galveston, et al.  
(Huberty)

S.B. No. 2144

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 15 members, consisting of the following:

(1) four members appointed by the governor;

(2) three members appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) three 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

1 representative designated by the chair;

2 (6) the chair of the house of representatives  
3 committee on public education, or a representative designated by  
4 the chair;

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

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

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

16 (1) an administrator in the public school system or an  
17 elected member of the board of trustees of a school district;

18 (2) a member of the business community; and

19 (3) a member of the civic community.

20 Sec. 42.603. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
21 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

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

26 Sec. 42.605. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING.

27 (a) Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative

1 support for the commission.

2 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
3 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency  
4 for that purpose.

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

8 (1) the purpose of the public school finance system  
9 and the relationship between state and local funding in that  
10 system;

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

15 (3) policy changes to the public school finance system  
16 necessary to adjust for student demographics and the geographic  
17 diversity in the state.

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

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

27 Sec. 42.608. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION.

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

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

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

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

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