

By: King of Hemphill, Bell of Kaufman

H.B. No. 3643

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. TEXAS COMMISSION ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION

Sec. 48.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission" means the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

Sec. 48.402. TEXAS COMMISSION ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION. (a) The commission is established to develop and make recommendations regarding the delivery of virtual education in the public school system and state funding for virtual education under the Foundation School Program.

(b) The commission consists of 13 members appointed as follows:

(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 current or retired classroom teacher with at  
2 least 10 years of teaching experience;

3           (2) one member of the business community; and

4           (3) one 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; and

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

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

16           Sec. 48.403. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
17 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

18           Sec. 48.404. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
19 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
20 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
21 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

22           Sec. 48.405. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. (a) The  
23 agency shall provide administrative support for the commission.

24           (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
25 of the commission shall be provided by legislative appropriation  
26 made to the agency for that purpose.

27           Sec. 48.406. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall

1 develop recommendations to address issues related to the delivery  
2 of and funding for virtual education, including alternative  
3 instructional delivery methods and alternative methods of funding.

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

8 Sec. 48.407. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2022, the  
9 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and  
10 the legislature that contains commission recommendations for  
11 legislative action to improve the implementation of virtual  
12 education.

13 Sec. 48.408. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)  
14 The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its  
15 duties under this subchapter.

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

18 Sec. 48.409. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF  
19 SUBCHAPTER. The commission is abolished and this subchapter expires  
20 January 1, 2023.

21 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
22 school year.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.