

House Bill 3643
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

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) one current or retired classroom teacher with at least 10 years of teaching experience;
- (2) one member of the business community; and
- (3) one member of the civic community.

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

- (1) three members of the applicable legislative chamber; and
- (2) an administrator in the public school system or an elected member of the board of trustees of a school district.

(e) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2), and

SENATE VERSION (IE)

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) one current or retired classroom teacher with at least 10 years of teaching experience;
- (2) one member of the business community; and
- (3) one member of the civic community.

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

- (1) three members of the applicable legislative chamber; and
- (2) an administrator in the public school system or an elected member of the board of trustees of a school district.

(e) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2), and

CONFERENCE

House Bill 3643
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

(3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic diversity of this state.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 48.406. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall develop recommendations to address issues related to the delivery of and funding for virtual education, including alternative instructional delivery methods and alternative methods of funding.

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

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

SENATE VERSION (IE)

(3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic diversity of this state.

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

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

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

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

Sec. 48.406. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall develop recommendations to address issues related to the delivery of and funding for virtual education, including alternative instructional delivery methods and alternative methods of funding.

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

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

CONFERENCE

House Bill 3643
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

Sec. 48.408. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its duties under this subchapter. (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552, Government Code.

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

No equivalent provision.

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

SECTION 3. 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, 2021.

SENATE VERSION (IE)

Sec. 48.408. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a) The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its duties under this subchapter. (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552, Government Code.

Sec. 48.4085. GIFTS, GRANTS, AND DONATIONS. The agency may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source to support the commission. [FA1(1)]

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

SECTION __. The Texas Commission on Virtual Education, as created by Subchapter I, Chapter 48, Education Code, as added by this Act, is required to implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the agency may, but is not required to, support the commission using other appropriations available for the purpose. [FA1(2)]

SECTION 2. Same as House version.

SECTION 3. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE