

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Public Education  
For HB 3315

Compiled on: Wednesday, April 19, 2023 1:06 AM

Note: Comments received by the committee reflect only the view of the individual(s) submitting the comment, who retain sole responsibility for the content of the comment. Neither the committee nor the Texas House of Representatives takes a position on the views expressed in any comment. The committee compiles the comments received for informational purposes only and does not exercise any editorial control over comments.

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Hearing Date: April 18, 2023 8:00 AM

Casey Merklung  
Self, fitness instructor  
Celina, TX

I am writing to urge the legislature to pass HB 3315.

Karen Hamilton  
Self  
Celina, TX  
Yes

Chris Donofrio  
Self  
The Woodlands, TX

I oppose HB 3315.  
I urge you to let it die in committee.

The bill's scope is too wide.  
There is no text defining grievance, or distinguishing between a grievance and something a parent does not agree with.  
The requested relief has no limits.  
The process presumes any grievance would move beyond a principal's hands.

This bill creates a nightmare scenario where parents flood the system with non-grievances that require attention throughout the system hierarchy.  
While attention throughout the hierarchy may be needed, and encouraged when needed, all I can see is a flood overwhelming the system.

Respectfully,  
Chris J. Donofrio

Whitney Broughton  
Texas Association of School Boards  
Austin, TX

The Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) respectfully opposes the expected committee substitute to HB 3315 by Rep. Keith Bell.

Section 1 of the proposed substituted bill (page 2, starting on line 8) includes language from the committee substitute to HB 890 (Bell). This change requires a school district to immediately render a decision in favor of a complainant if the district does not render a final decision on a grievance within 120 calendar days. While we agree with the intent of the bill to ensure a timely resolution of grievances, requiring a district to grant a decision in favor of a complainant could be problematic depending on what relief the complainant is requesting.

We agree that under most circumstances, 120 days should be sufficient to resolve a grievance. That's why we supported HB 890 as filed. However, the grievance process requires participation on both sides, and this deadline could incentivize individuals to be obstructive to delay the process and automatically be granted relief. Further, there are times during the year when school districts may be closed for extended periods and timely resolution of a grievance may be more challenging because the 120-day deadline is measured in calendar days and not business days. Further, the district could be in a position of having to take action that could violate the law and cause legal action against the district by granting a request in a grievance like the ones mentioned previously. For example, a parent may request that an employee be fired, a vendor may demand that a contract with a different vendor be voided and awarded to their company, or a teacher may request that they receive an increase in salary or monetary damages.

The committee substitute language puts a school district in the position of having to choose which law to violate, but this could be solved by adding, "if the relief requested by the grievant is not otherwise prohibited by law," to the end of 26.011(c)(1)(C)(iii) of the committee substitute. This simple addition could ensure that parents and children can have better access to the corrective action they deserve, and school districts have a realistic opportunity to provide relief in a timely manner.

Bryan Allen  
Self: Superintendent of Schools  
Breckenridge, TX

Because there are no definite timelines stipulated, I oppose this bill.

Kim Roland  
Self / Retired  
Lockhart, TX

I SUPPORT HB 3315.

Garrett Costello  
Self  
The Woodlands, TX

I support this bill and urge you to vote YES

Theresa Williams, Superintendent  
Plano ISD  
Plano, TX

Plano ISD opposes HB 3315 because it removes local control over the grievance process for school districts.

Debra Carter  
Bastrop County Conservatives  
Cedar Creek, TX

I support this bill. Parental rights are imperative.

George Brian Vachris, P.E.

self retired

Humble, TX

I have a problem with sub part (e) of this bill. There must be a time limit on the initiation of a complaint for non-criminal matters. This could be amended.

Lisa Smith

Self

Plano, TX

I SUPPORT this bill. Our parental rights are sacred, and must be upheld to protect our children.

EVE MARGOLIS

self

Austin, TX

Oppose 3315. This bill would allow parents personal grievances to stymie the board of trustees to support district and teachers. Anyone with a bone to pick could disrupt the entire district.

Christy Cosmano

Self

Prosper, TX

I was told the school does not do grievance procedures on a school board level regarding special education. Is that true?

Jerry Rubli, 77379

Self

Spring, TX

I think this is a wonderful bill and support it's adoption.

Janelle Davis

Self/Texas Education 911

Celina, TX

Please support HB 3315. I am FOR the bill. The grievance processes are broken and need changed. They need to be codified into Ed Code and there needs to be a minimum standard and independent reviewer required. Thank you.

Debi Litton  
self  
Sherman, TX

"The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the legitimate object of good government." Thomas Jefferson

Dear Congressman,

I am writing this to ask you to OPPOSE this bill. It is not as complete as Congressman Dutton's bill HB4340 is.

This is a bill does not give descriptive step by step grievance requirements and it eliminates the time for a parent to file a complaint.

I ask that you vote "NO" to this bill and consider HB4340 instead.

Thanks for your kind consideration,

Debi Litton

Debi Litton  
self  
Sherman, TX

Dear Congresspersons,

I am writing to ask you to vote FOR this bill!

susan Lucas  
retired  
BRYAN, TX

Please vote FOR!!!!

James Ransdell  
Self  
Seguin, TX

We need the parents to be told about the Commissioner Appeals process following a board hearing in a grievance process, and are given instructions on how to file a local grievance at the start of the school year and on the district's website. Please pass this Bill.

Mitzi Higginbotham  
self  
Reklaw Texas, TX

I support HB 3315 by Bell. Keith. This bill is a concise and precise bill that guides school district's grievance procedures regarding complaints concerning violation of parental rights. In this bill the procedures are spelled out for the district, superintendent, principal, school board and parent. I think the strength of this bill is that it instructs school districts to post in a prominent location on the district's Internet website, the grievance document, procedures and instructions for parents on the grievance process. As a former school administrator and parent I think this bill is very supportive, transparent with parents/guardians and cleat guideline for everyone involved.

Please support HB 3315

Nicole Duncum  
Duncum  
Austin, TX

I support parental rights. No school should have the authority to override a parent regarding their student

Alexandru Ardel  
self  
Austin, TX

Please vote yes for this bill

susan gilchrist  
Self/ Realtor  
Austin, TX

I am in Favor of this Bill!

Bonnie Seelig  
Self Retired  
Spicewood, TX

SUPPORT HB 3315

Of primary importance is that the grievance procedures must include definite "number of days" for each layer of the process to take place. We all know that complaints can linger on one desk after another. That lingering is encouraged when "number of days" are not included in the guideline. Since we are dealing with finite time that a child is in school, many occasions have arisen of manipulation of the system. Posting of guidelines and frequent reminders of the guidelines are an asset to successful policies.

Debi Litton  
self  
Sherman, TX

Dear Congressperson,

I am writing that you vote for this bill.

What I like about this bill is that parents are told about the Commissioner Appeals process following a board meeting in a grievance process and are given instructions on how to file a local grievance at the start of a school year and on the districts website.

Please vote "YES" for this bill.

Thanks for your service and consideration on this bill.

Sincerely,

Debi Litton

Anne Newman  
Self  
Fair Oaks Ranch, TX

Please support HB 3315.

Amanda Logan

self

Austin, TX

Please support this bill vs Dutton's HB 4340. This bill does not give descriptive step by step grievance requirements, and it eliminates the time for a parent to file a complaint. I also like that parents are told about the Commissioner Appeals process following a board hearing in a grievance process, and are given instructions on how to file a local grievance at the start of the school year and on the district's website.

Sharon Tryon, Mrs

Self

Waxahachie, TX

I support this bill