

Suspending limitations on conference committee
jurisdiction, S.B. No. 568 (Bettencourt/Buckley)

By: Bettencourt

S.R. No. 709

SENATE RESOLUTION

BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, 89th Legislature, Regular Session, 2025, That Senate Rule 12.03 be suspended in part as provided by Senate Rule 12.08 to enable the conference committee appointed to resolve the differences on Senate Bill 568 (relating to special education in public schools, including funding for special education under the Foundation School Program) to consider and take action on the following matters:

(1) Senate Rule 12.03(1) is suspended to permit the committee to change, alter, or amend text not in disagreement in proposed SECTION 5 of the bill, by amending added Section [29.001\(c\)\(6\)\(C\)](#), Education Code, to read as follows:

(C) appropriately trained personnel are available to students with disabilities who have significant behavioral support needs, including by making behavioral support training available to each paraprofessional or teacher placed in a classroom or other setting that is intended to provide specialized behavioral supports to a student with a disability, as needed or at regular intervals as provided in the student's individualized education program;

Explanation: This change is necessary to clarify to whom behavioral support training must be made available to ensure appropriately trained personnel are available to students with disabilities who have significant behavioral support needs.

S.R. No. 709

(2) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill in proposed SECTION 12 of the bill, in amended Section 29.008(c), Education Code, to read as follows: If a [~~residential~~] placement primarily for care or treatment reasons involves a private [~~residential~~] facility in which the education program is provided by the school district, the portion of the costs that includes appropriate education services, as determined by the school district's admission, review, and dismissal committee, shall be paid from local, state, and federal education funds.

Explanation: This change is necessary to allow school districts to pay the cost for certain placements in a private facility from local funds.

(3) Senate Rule 12.03(2) is suspended to permit the committee to omit text not in disagreement by omitting the portion of proposed SECTION 24 of the bill that adds Section 29.024, Education Code. The omitted text reads:

Sec. 29.024. GRANT PROGRAM PROVIDING TRAINING IN DYSLEXIA FOR TEACHERS AND STAFF. (a) From money appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the commissioner shall establish a program to award grants each school year to school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to increase local capacity to appropriately serve students with dyslexia.

(b) A school district, including a school district acting through a district charter issued under Subchapter C, Chapter 12, or an open-enrollment charter school, including a charter school

that primarily serves students with disabilities, as provided under Section 12.1014, is eligible to apply for a grant under this section if the district or school submits to the commissioner a proposal on the use of grant funds that:

(1) incorporates evidence-based and research-based design; and

(2) increases local capacity to appropriately serve students with dyslexia by providing:

(A) high-quality training to classroom teachers and administrators in meeting the needs of students with dyslexia; or

(B) training to intervention staff resulting in appropriate credentialing related to dyslexia, with priority for training staff to earn the credentials necessary to become a licensed dyslexia therapist or certified academic language therapist.

(c) The commissioner shall create an external panel of stakeholders, including parents of students with disabilities, to provide assistance in the selection of applications for the award of grants under this section.

(d) A grant awarded to a school district or open-enrollment charter school under this section is in addition to the Foundation School Program money that the district or charter school is otherwise entitled to receive. A grant awarded under this section may not come out of Foundation School Program money.

(e) The commissioner and any grant recipient selected

under this section may accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source, person, or group to implement and administer the grant. The commissioner and any grant recipient selected under this section may not require any financial contribution from parents to implement and administer the grant.

(f) A regional education service center may administer grants awarded under this section.

Explanation: This change is necessary to omit language that would authorize the commissioner of education to establish a grant program to provide training in serving students with dyslexia to school district and open-enrollment charter school teachers and staff.

(4) Senate Rule 12.03(1) is suspended to permit the committee to change, alter, or amend text not in disagreement in proposed SECTION 27 of the bill, by amending Section 29.042(a), Education Code, to read as follows:

Subject to Subsection (c), the agency shall provide each student approved as provided by this subchapter a grant of not more than \$1,500 to purchase supplemental [~~special education~~] services and supplemental [~~special education~~] instructional materials.

Explanation: This change is necessary to provide the amount of the grant provided under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, Education Code.

(5) Senate Rule 12.03(4) is suspended to permit the committee to add text on a matter not included in either the house or senate version of the bill in proposed SECTION 27 of the bill, by adding Section 29.042(f), Education Code, to read as follows:

(f) A regional education service center designated to administer the program under this subchapter for a school year is entitled to receive not more than four percent of the amount appropriated for purposes of making grants under this subchapter for that school year for the costs of administering the program.

Explanation: This change is necessary to clarify the amount of money a regional education service center may receive for administering the program under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, Education Code.

(6) Senate Rule 12.03(1) is suspended to permit the committee to change, alter, or amend text not in disagreement in proposed SECTION 28 of the bill, in amended Section 29.045, Education Code, to read as follows:

Subject to available funding the agency shall approve each student who meets the program eligibility criteria established under Section 29.044 and assign to the student an account maintained under Section 29.042(b).

Explanation: This change is necessary to ensure that the approval of and assignment of accounts to eligible students under the program under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, Education Code, are subject to available funding.

(7) Senate Rule 12.03(2) is suspended to permit the committee to omit text not in disagreement by omitting the portion of proposed SECTION 63 of the bill that adds Section 48.306, Education Code. The omitted text reads:

Sec. 48.306. PARENT-DIRECTED SERVICES FOR STUDENTS RECEIVING SPECIAL EDUCATION SERVICES GRANT. (a) A student to

whom the agency awards a grant under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, is entitled to receive an amount of \$1,500 or a greater amount provided by appropriation.

(b) The legislature shall include in the appropriations for the Foundation School Program state aid sufficient for the agency to award grants under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, in the amount provided by this section.

(c) A student may receive one grant under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, unless the legislature appropriates money for an additional grant in the General Appropriations Act.

(d) A regional education service center designated to administer the program under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, for a school year is entitled to an amount equal to four percent of each grant awarded under that subchapter for that school year.

(e) Notwithstanding Section 7.057, a determination of the commissioner under this section is final and may not be appealed.

Explanation: This change is necessary to omit language that would provide an entitlement to a grant under Subchapter A-1, Chapter 29, Education Code, or to an amount for administering the program under that subchapter.

S.R. No. 709

President of the Senate

I hereby certify that the
above Resolution was adopted by
the Senate on May 31, 2025, by the
following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate