

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
76R3379 BDH-D

H.B. 617
By: Ehrhardt (West)
Education
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Engrossed

DIGEST

Section 11.251 (Planning and Decision-Making Process), Education Code, establishes a school district-and campus-level planning and decision-making process that provides for a site-based decision-making committee. This committee is composed of professional staff of the district, parents, and community members to establish and review the district's and campuses' educational plans, goals, performance objectives, and major classroom instructional programs. Under Section 7.056 (Waivers and Exemptions), Education Code, any school campus or district seeking a waiver of a requirement, restriction, or prohibition provided by the Education Code or rule of the school board or the commissioner of education (commissioner) must submit a written application to the commissioner, which must include written comments from the appropriate site-based decision-making committee. However, no process exists which verifies that the majority of the committee members have reviewed the waiver before the submission of written comments, on behalf of the committee, to the commissioner. H.B. 617 requires a written application for a waiver to include the signature of the chairperson of the appropriate campus- or district-level committee to indicate that a majority of the committee members have reviewed the application. This bill provides that the chairperson of the district-level committee, and of each campus-level committee whose campus is affected, must comment on and sign the district's application for a waiver; accordingly, the chairperson of the campus-level committee must comment on and sign the campus' application for a waiver by a campus.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 617 sets forth certain requirements for waiver applications by a public school campus or district.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 7.056(b), Education Code, to include among the required contents of a written application for a waiver, the signature of the chairperson of the appropriate campus or district-level committee established under Section 11.251 (Planning and Decision-Making Process) evidencing review of the application by a majority of the members of the committee. Provides that the chairperson of the district-level committee, and of each campus-level committee whose campus is affected, must comment on and sign the district's application for a waiver. Provides that the chair person of the campus-level committee must comment on and sign the campus' application for a waiver by a campus. Makes a nonsubstantive change.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.