

**SUBJECT:** Telecommunications and Educational Technology Coordinating Council

**COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Sadler, Dutton, Dunnam, Grusendorf, Hochberg, Lengefeld, Olivo, Smith

0 nays

1 absent — Oliveira

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, Local and Uncontested Calendar, May 11 — 30-0

**WITNESSES:** None

**DIGEST:** SB 1617 would establish the Telecommunications and Educational Technology Coordinating Council to coordinate the state's promotion and use of educational technology.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Education Agency, the State Board for Educator Certification, and the state's higher education institutions would cooperate to ensure the:

- ! development of standards for teaching the use of educational technologies;
- ! training in effective and efficient use of educational technologies for teachers and librarians; and
- ! adequate funding for continuing education training.

Each of the following agencies would appoint one representative to the new coordinating council:

- ! the Texas Education Agency;
- ! the State Board for Educator Certification;
- ! the General Services Commission;
- ! the Department of Information Resources (chair);
- ! the Texas State Library and Archives Commission;
- ! the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board; and

! the Telecommunications Infrastructure Fund Board.

The council would create a statewide master plan for educational technology resources to prevent duplication and to address unmet needs. It would consider the long-term educational technology needs of students. The plan would be delivered to the Legislature by January 1, 2001.