

- SUBJECT:** Prohibiting discrimination by public educational institutions
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Sadler, Dutton, Dunnam, Hochberg, Oliveira, Olivo  
0 nays  
2 absent — Grusendorf, Hardcastle
- WITNESSES:** For — Maritsa Asghari; Brandon Bays, Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network; Amy Clift; Carey Cummings; Malcolm Greenstein; William Harrell, American Civil Liberties Union; Sonny Hood; Kelly Martino; Patty Moeng Mfoloe; Michele Molter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Julian Padilla; Yolanda Padilla; Alejandra Tobar  
  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 1.002, enacted in 1995 by the 74th Legislature in SB 1 by Ratliff, requires an educational institution to provide equal opportunities to all people within its jurisdiction or geographical boundaries and prohibits an educational institution from denying services to any person eligible to participate in a school district's special education program.
- DIGEST:** HB 1296 would add sec. 1.0021 to the Education Code, stating that a public educational institution or its employee could not discriminate against a student enrolled in the institution on account of the ethnicity, color, gender, gender identity, sexual orientation, disability, religion, or national origin of the student or the student's parent.  
  
The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2001.

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