

SUBJECT: Increasing student participation in free or reduced-price breakfast

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Eissler, Dutton, Hochberg, Mowery, Olivo, Patrick

0 nays

3 absent — Zedler, Branch, Delisi

WITNESSES: For — Celia Hagert, Center for Public Policy Priorities; Greg Hooser, Texas Association for School Nutrition, Texas Dietetic Association; Ellen Williams, Houston Independent School District (*Registered, but did not testify*); Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Melody Chatelle, United Way Capital Area; Dwight Harris, Texas Federation of Teachers; Richard Noriega, South Texas Food Bank; Ruby Ramos, Texans Care for Children; Jason Sabo, United Ways of Texas)

Against — None

DIGEST: CSHB 454 would require TEA to conduct a study to identify methods for increasing the number of students who participate in the school breakfast program, including:

- conducting a cost-benefit analysis in school districts in which 60 percent of students were economically disadvantaged to determine the impact of providing a free breakfast to students who otherwise would pay a reduced price and to all students regardless of family income; and
- identifying programs and practices in school districts in Texas and other states that are effective in increasing participation in the breakfast program.

The cost-benefit analysis would have to include an analysis of school districts that provide free breakfast to all students in the district regardless of family income and assess administrative costs to school districts, federal reimbursements to districts, cost per breakfast, and student participation in the breakfast program.

By October 31, 2008, TEA would have to submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the House that would have to include the cost benefit analysis, outline effective programs and practices in Texas and other states, and recommend to the Legislature methods for increasing participation in the breakfast program.

The bill would specify that TEA could not impose a more restrictive standard or requirement on a school district that offered free breakfast or lunch to all students than a federal standard or requirement.

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, 2007, and would apply beginning with the 2007-2008 school year.