

- SUBJECT:** Student responsibility for e-books and technological equipment
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Eissler, Hochberg, Allen, Aycock, Jackson, Patrick, Shelton, Weber  
0 nays  
3 absent — Dutton, Farias, Olivo
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Sandi Borden, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Ramiro Canales, Texas Association of School Administrators; David Duty, Texas Association of Community Schools; Monty Exter, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Tracy Hoke, Round Rock ISD; Jackie Lain, Texas Association of School Boards; Martin Pena, South Texas Association of Schools)  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, Sec. 31.104(d) makes students and their parents or guardians responsible for the return all textbooks the student receives. If any textbooks are not returned at the end of the school year, the student no longer may receive free textbooks unless a parent or guardian pays for the unreturned books. A school or school district may withhold a student's records if any textbooks are unreturned or unpaid for, but may not prevent that student from graduating or receiving a diploma.
- DIGEST:** HB 1332 would apply the responsibilities and potential penalties for textbooks to electronic textbooks and technological equipment.  
  
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, 2009.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 1332 is necessary to make sure Texas law reflects current classroom tools. As more school districts implement technology in the classroom,

they must be protected from the risk of loss. Current law does not allow school districts to recoup the cost of any electronic textbooks or other electronic learning equipment, such as laptops, e-book readers and other handheld electronic devices, that may be lost. The standards that apply to textbooks also should apply to any technological equipment a student may be issued.

While the cost of the electronic equipment may be more than some low-income families are able to pay, the current law on textbooks that HB 1332 would extend to this equipment already allows school districts to reduce or waive payments from those students.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.