

**SUBJECT:** Including certain private institutions in THECB's accountability system

**COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Branch, Castro, Alonzo, Bonnen, Brown, D. Howard, Lewis, Patrick

0 nays

1 absent — Johnson

**SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, March 28 — 30-1 (Fraser)

**WITNESSES:** No public hearing

**BACKGROUND:** In January 2004, the governor issued an executive order requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to work with institutions and systems to provide the necessary information for determining the effectiveness and quality of education at each institution. The higher education accountability system provides data for these purposes. Institutional groupings allow institutions that share attributes to address relevant topics and issues.

Currently, private postsecondary educational institutions and private career schools and colleges do not participate in the higher education accountability system.

**DIGEST:** CSSB 38 would amend the Education Code to require THECB to include within the board's higher education accountability system any private postsecondary educational institutions or private career schools and colleges that offered degree programs.

Regardless of whether THECB was conducting a periodic review of institutional groupings, THECB would have to determine whether to create one or more separate institutional groupings for these entities.

THECB would be required to consult with private postsecondary educational institutions and private career schools and colleges regarding

the imposition of reporting requirements and to adopt rules that clearly defined the types and amounts of information that would be reported to THECB by these entities.

CSSB 38 would require THECB, before each regular session of the Legislature, to report to each higher education legislative committee about any private postsecondary education institutions or private career schools and colleges that did not participate in the higher education accountability system.

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, 2011.