

- SUBJECT:** State control of teacher appraisal criteria, curriculum, and assessments
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Aycock, J. Davis, Farney, Huberty, K. King, Ratliff, J. Rodriguez, Villarreal
- 1 nay — Allen
- 2 absent — Deshotel, Dutton
- WITNESSES:** For — Barbara Cargill; MerryLynn Gerstenschlager, Texas Eagle Forum; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Monty Exter, The Association of Texas Professional Educators; Lloyd W. Graham, La Porte ISD; Lindsay Gustafson, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Patti Janusaitis; Jeremy Newman, Texas Home School Coalition; Jonathan Saenz, Texas Values)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Anna Eastman, Houston ISD; Patricia V. Hayes, Stand for Children Texas; Anne Roussos, League of Women Voters of Texas; Sara Tays, Exxon Mobil Corp.)
- On — Zenobia Joseph; (*Registered, but did not testify:* David Anderson and Criss Cloudt, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** The Common Core State Standards Initiative is a set of educational standards for kindergarten through 12th grade in English language arts and mathematics that states voluntarily adopt. The initiative was led by the National Governors Association and the Council of Chief State School Officers.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 462 would prohibit the State Board of Education (SBOE) from adopting common core state standards, defined as the national curriculum standards developed by the Common Core State Standards Initiative, as part of the state's required curriculum.
- A school district could not use common core state standards to comply with the requirement to provide appropriate grade-level instruction. The

bill would prohibit a school district or open-enrollment charter school from being required to offer any aspect of a common core state standards curriculum.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) would be prohibited from adopting or developing a state-mandated test based on common core standards. College advanced placement tests (AP) or international baccalaureate (IB) exams would be allowed.

CSHB 462 would prohibit the education commissioner from adopting or developing a recommended teacher appraisal process that included results of student performance on tests intended for national applicability or that were enacted federally. The bill would specify that college AP tests and IB exams could be included.

The bill would take immediate effect if passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

When Congress created the U.S. Department of Education in 1979 it explicitly stated that the department must not increase federal government authority over education or diminish state and local responsibility for education.

Despite the intention of Congress and the fact that the 10th Amendment clearly reserves to states the responsibility of education, there has been an effort of the federal government to implement a national set of curriculum standards.

HB 462 would seek to remedy this overreach by making clear that the SBOE, a public school district, or an open-enrollment charter school could not adopt the common core state standards curriculum.

Texas has an elected SBOE that is accountable to voters and involves educators and the public in its curriculum decisions. The SBOE process is flexible enough to respond to any needed changes in the Texas essential knowledge and skills.

Texas standards are high and its students are succeeding, as reflected in rising graduation rates and record numbers of students taking AP exams. The state should not be brought down to lower national standards and a

politically correct curriculum.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

CSHB 462 would interfere with local districts' flexibility to use any aspect of the common core state standards, including any lesson plans that might be relevant to the Texas curriculum.

The bill also could hinder school districts' ability to use student scores on national tests such as the SAT to evaluate teachers. Houston ISD said the bill would impact its teacher evaluation plan.

Texas students compete nationally, but CSHB 642 would prevent TEA from ever developing a test based on common core standards to see how our students compare to those in states across the country.

The federal government was not involved in the development of the common core state standards. States across the country collaborated with teachers, researchers, and leading experts to develop the standards, which have been commended by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce. The standards are designed to reflect the knowledge and skills that students need for college or the workforce.

Forty-five states, the District of Columbia, four territories, and the Department of Defense Education Activity have adopted the Common Core State Standards.