

SUBJECT: Adding CTE and workforce training to the mission of public education

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Gooden,
K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Joe Arnold, Texas Chemical Council, Texas Association of
Manufacturers, BASF; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Michael Chatron,
AGC Texas Building Branch; Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and
Contractors of Texas; Daniel Womack, Dow Chemical Company; Traci
Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Katija Gruene, Green Party of Texas;
Mike Meroney, Huntsman Corporation, BASF Corporation, Texas
Workforce Coalition; Marlene Lobberecht, League of Women Voters of
Texas; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent
Business/Texas; Dwight Harris and Ted Melina Raab, Texas American
Federation of Teachers; Shannon Noble, Texas Air Conditioning
Contractors Association, Texas Industrial Vocational Association;
Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Barry Haenisch,
Texas Association of Community Schools; Lori Henning, Texas
Association of Goodwills; Stephanie Simpson, Texas Association of
Manufacturers; Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School
Administrators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards;
Michael White, Texas Construction Association; Janna Lilly, Texas
Council of Administrators of Special Education; Carlton Schwab, Texas
Economic Development Council; Jim Reaves, Texas Farm Bureau; Jeff
Stokes, Texas Nursery and Landscape Association; Ellen Arnold, Texas
PTA; Colby Nichols, Texas Rural Education Association; Dee Carney,
Texas School Alliance; James Thurston, United Ways of Texas; Thomas
Parkinson; Kimberly Saldivar)

Against — None

On — Greg Vaughn, Texas Association of Workforce Boards; Quentin

Suffren, Texas Education Agency

BACKGROUND: Education Code, ch. 4 describes the mission, objectives, and goals of public education. Objective 4 of public education states that “A well-balanced and appropriate curriculum will be provided to all students.”

Some observers suggest that career and technology education and workforce training play a pivotal role in the state's education system and should be included among the objectives of public education.

DIGEST: HB 136 would add the following statement to Objective 4: "Through that curriculum, students will be prepared to succeed in a variety of postsecondary activities, including employment, workforce training, and enrollment in institutions of higher education."

The bill also would add Objective 11, requiring the State Board of Education, the Texas Education Agency, and the commissioner of education to assist school districts and charter schools in providing career and technology education and effective workforce training opportunities to students.

This 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, 2017.