

SUBJECT: Allowing students who participate in Special Olympics to earn a letter

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

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

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Margaret Larsen, Special Olympics Texas; Nathan Van Nostrand;
(*Registered, but did not testify*: Mark Wiggins, Association of Texas
Professional Educators; Katija Gruene, Green Party of Texas; Will
Francis, National Association of Social Workers, Texas Chapter; Seth
Rau, San Antonio ISD; Ted Melina Raab, Texas AFT (American
Federation of Teachers); Courtney Boswell and Houston Tower, Texas
Aspires; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools;
Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Janna Lilly,
Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Ellen Arnold,
Texas PTA; Colby Nichols, Texas Rural Education Association; Portia
Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Dwight Harris, Texas AFT;
Joey Gidseg)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Monica Martinez, Texas Education
Agency)

DIGEST: CSHB 1645 would require school districts that allow high school students
to earn letters for academic, athletic, or extracurricular activities to allow
high school students who participate in the Special Olympics to earn a
letter.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds vote
of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect
September 1, 2017, and would apply beginning with the 2017-2018 school
year.