

SUBJECT: Allowing school nurses to serve on concussion oversight teams

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — M. González

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Jason Romero, Indivisible Texas; Dwight Harris, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Dax Gonzalez, Texas Association of School Boards; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Kate Kuhlmann, Texas High School Coaches Association; Troy Alexander, Texas Medical Association; Kevin Stewart, Texas Nurse Practitioners; Andrew Cates, Texas Nurses Association; Bobby Hillert, Texas Orthopedic Association; Loree LaChance, Texas School Nurses Organization; Rick Dennis, Texas State Athletic Trainers Association; Darren Grissom, TX PTA; Elisa Saslavsky; Arthur Simon)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 38.153 requires the governing body of each school district and charter school with enrolled students who participate in an interscholastic athletic activity to appoint or approve a concussion oversight team. Sec. 38.154 requires a concussion oversight team to include at least one physician and, to the greatest extent practicable, one or more of the following: an athletic trainer; an advanced practice nurse; a neuropsychologist; or a physician assistant. If a district or charter school employs an athletic trainer, that individual must be on the team.

DIGEST: CSHB 961 would allow a school nurse employed by a district or charter

school to be a member of the district or charter school concussion oversight team if the nurse requested to be on the team. A nurse who served on a concussion oversight team would have to take a training course from an authorized training provider at least once every two years.

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, 2019.