HOUSE
RESEARCH
ORGANIZATION bill digest   5/21/2019

SB 1453 (2nd reading)
Taylor
(Ashby)

SUBJECT:	Allowing the use of certain applications in place of graphing calculators
COMMITTEE:	Public Education — favorable, without amendment
VOTE:	11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, Meyer, Talarico, VanDeaver
	0 nays
	2 absent — K. King, Sanford
SENATE VOTE:	On final passage, April 24 — 31-0
WITNESSES:	For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Caroline Joiner, Desmos; Mary Cullinane, League of Women Voters of Texas; Will Holleman, Texas Association of School Boards; Jennifer Bergland, Texas Computer Education Association)
	Against — None
	On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)
BACKGROUND:	Interested parties have noted that many public school districts require students to purchase graphing calculators even though low-cost or no-cost calculator applications with the same functionality as graphing calculators have recently become available.
DIGEST:	SB 1453 would require a school district to permit a student enrolled in a course that required the student to use a graphing calculator to use a calculator application that provided the same functionality on a computing device unless the district made a graphing calculator available at no cost to the student.
	The bill would authorize a district to adopt policies related to student use of a computing device for the purposes of the bill.

The Texas Education Agency (TEA) would be required to implement a provision of the bill only if the legislature appropriated money for such a purpose. If funds were not appropriated, TEA could implement the provisions of the bill using other appropriations available for that purpose.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

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.