

SUBJECT: Establishing a new bachelor degree program for South Texas College

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Kuempel, Paul, Bucy, Burns, Burrows, Cole, M. González, Howard, Lalani

0 nays

2 absent — Clardy, Raney

WITNESSES: For — Veronica Rodriguez, South Texas College (*Registered, but did not testify*: Garry Jones, DFER Texas)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that there is a need to educate more people in the South Texas region for careers in child and family development as the field is expected to see substantial occupational growth over the next decade.

DIGEST: CSHB 1636 would increase the limit for public junior college baccalaureate degree programs from five to six for South Texas College. One of the six programs would be required to be a bachelor of applied science in child and family development.

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, 2023.