

SUBJECT: Continuing the Supplemental Special Education Services program

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Buckley, Allison, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, K. King, Schaefer

2 nays — Hinojosa, Talarico

3 absent — Allen, Dutton, Longoria

WITNESSES: For — Shana Fancher, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education (*Registered, but did not testify*: Garry Jones, Democrats for Education Reform TX; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Julia Hatcher, Christina Perrone, Texas Association of Family Defense Attorneys; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Raif Calvert, Texas Association of School Boards; Andrea Chevalier, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Matthew McCormick, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; and 10 individuals)

Against — Linda Arbuckle (*Registered, but did not testify*: Emily Amps, Texas AFL-CIO; Kelsey Kling, Texas AFT; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association; Marissa Curtis Gough; Susan Stewart)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, Kristin McGuire, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Under Education Code sec. 29.050, the Supplemental Special Education Services (SSES) program expires September 1, 2024.

Some have suggested that the SSES program established during COVID-19 school closures should be continued to provide important special education resources and supplies to students that could otherwise be inaccessible.

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DIGEST: HB 1926 would repeal the expiration date of the SSES program.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES: According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 1926 would have a negative impact of about \$1.4 million during fiscal 2024-25, with reduced negative impacts during subsequent biennia.