

SUBJECT: Requiring civic instruction on certain political ideologies

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Buckley, Allison, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, Hinojosa, K. King, Schaefer, Talarico

0 nays

3 absent — Allen, Dutton, Longoria

WITNESSES: For — Paula Hilliard, Texas Education 911; Sarah Yao (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tricia Cave, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Angela Smith, Fredericksburg Tea Party; Rhonda Hurst, Moms Liberty; Perla Muñoz Hopkins, Texas Director, Moms For America; Gregory Porter, Texas For Liberty; Fran Rhodes, True Texas Project; Mitch Fuller, Veterans of Foreign Wars Department of Texas; and 17 individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Maggie Stern, Children's Defense Fund - Texas; Jaime Puente, Every Texan; Chloe Latham Sikes, Intercultural Development Research Association; Lesley Rivas, Mexican American School Boards Association; Emily Amps, Texas AFL-CIO; Cynthia Van Maanen, Travis County Democratic Party; and 29 individuals)

On — Teresa Razo, Tammy Reyes, Texas American Federation of Teachers (*Registered, but did not testify*: Tisha Crow, Ector County Republican Party; Eric Marin, Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency; Aileen Blachowski)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that educating students about the negative historical impacts of communism and totalitarianism as part of the foundational curriculum would help students better understand how these political ideologies are contrary to the founding principles of the United States.

DIGEST: CSHB 2273 would amend the essential knowledge and skills required to

be adopted by the State Board of Education for the foundation curriculum related to civic knowledge to include an understanding of political ideologies, such as communism and totalitarianism, that conflict with the founding principles of the United States.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-2024 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, 2023.