

SUBJECT: Authorizing certain school districts for bilingual education allotment

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Buckley, Allison, Cunningham, Dutton, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, K. King, Longoria, Schaefer, Talarico

2 nays — Allen, Hinojosa

SENATE VOTE: On final passage (May 3) — 31 - 0

WITNESSES: For — Laura Carrasco, International Leadership of Texas (*Registered, but did not testify*; Frank Corte, International Leadership of Texas; Lesley Rivas, Mexican American School Boards Association; Jean Mayer, Pflugerville ISD; Bryce Adams, Texas Public Charter Schools Association)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jaime Puente, Every Texan; Fatima Menendez, MALDEF)

On — Chloe Latham Sikes, Intercultural Development Research Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, Justin Porter, James Terry, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that school districts that offer alternative language methods approved by the Texas Education Agency and use a dual language immersion model should be authorized to receive the bilingual education allotment with an increased funding weight.

DIGEST: CSSB 2497 would authorize the Texas Education Agency (TEA), for the purposes of implementing the bilingual education allotment under the Foundation School Program, to require a public school district that had been granted an exception from implementing a bilingual education or special language program to:

- include in the district's Public Education Information Management

System (PEIMS) report additional information specified by TEA and relating to the alternative language education methods used by the district; and

- classify the alternative language education method used by the district under the PEIMS report as specified by TEA.

TEA would be required to review the school districts that offered TEA-approved alternative language methods and approve districts to receive the relevant allotment. The allotment could not exceed \$10 million total to all school districts in each biennium. To the extent possible, TEA would have to approve eligible districts from a cross section of the state.

A district would be entitled to a certain annual allotment for each student in average daily attendance in a TEA-approved alternative language method offered by the district, subject to calculations specified by the bill.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated negative impact of \$494,051 to general revenue related funds during fiscal 2024-25.