

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 638
By: Capriglione
Public Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

It has been suggested that the opportunity to see a child who has died recognized by means of a posthumous high school diploma should be available to parents regardless of whether the child died during the child's senior year of high school. C.S.H.B. 638 seeks to address this issue by removing conditions that make the award of such a posthumous diploma dependent on when the child died.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 638 amends the Education Code to change the conditions under which a public school district is required to issue a posthumous high school diploma on parental request to each student who died while enrolled in the district from a requirement that the district so issue if the student was enrolled at grade level 12 and was academically on track at the time of death to receive a diploma at the end of the school year in which the student died to a requirement that the district so issue at the end of the school year in which the student was expected to graduate under the regular schedule of school attendance. The bill prohibits the diploma from being issued before the graduation date of the class in which the student was enrolled at the time of death. The bill applies beginning with students who would have graduated at the end of the 2019-2020 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2019.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 638 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following summarizes the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

The substitute does not include the provision conditioning the issuance of the diploma on the requesting parent residing in the district.