

**SUBJECT:** Expanding the P-16 Council

**COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Morrison, Goolsby, F. Brown, Dawson, Gallego, Giddings, Harper-Brown, J. Jones, Rose

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Lynette Heckmann, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

Against — None

**BACKGROUND:** The 78th Legislature in 2003 enacted SB 286 by Shapleigh, the Sunset legislation continuing the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). The bill established the P-16 Council, which comprises the commissioners of THECB and the Texas Education Agency (TEA), the executive directors of the Texas Workforce Commission and the State Board for Educator Certification, and additional members appointed by council members. The council's duties include coordination on dropout prevention, teacher recruitment and retention, adult education, and career and technology training. The council does not establish curriculum or testing or assessment standards.

**DIGEST:** HB 2808 would consolidate existing statutes governing the P-16 Council in Education Code, sec. 61.076. The bill would add the commissioner of the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to the council, and would name the commissioners of TEA and THECB as co-chairs of the council. The co-chairs would be authorized to appoint three additional council members who were education professionals, business representatives, or other members of the community. These members would serve two-year terms expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

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SUPPORTERS  
SAY:

HB 2808 would expand the P-16 Council to help avoid potential open meetings violations that may occur unintentionally when current council members meet for other purposes. Adding these members also would make it easier for the council to adhere to open meetings requirements regarding the establishment of a quorum. Most of the provisions of the bill are non-substantive and intended to consolidate the statutes governing the P-16 Council into one section of the Education Code.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No apparent opposition.