

SUBJECT: Allocation of state and federal funds for adult basic education

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Eissler, Hochberg, Allen, Farias, Olivo, Patrick, Shelton, Weber
0 nays
1 present not voting — Aycock
2 absent — Dutton, Jackson

WITNESSES: For — Blas Castaneda, Texas Border Coalition; Leodoro Martinez, Middle Rio Grande Region; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Graczela Camargo; James Degaravilla; Elizabeth Lippincott, Texas Border Coalition; Blanca Munoz; Hector Uribe, County of Zapata, Zapata County Economic Development Center)

Against — None

On — Wanda Garza, South Texas College; Shelton Green, Christian Life Commission

DIGEST: CSHB 636 would require TEA to allocate state and federal adult basic education funds, other than federal funds set aside for state administration, special projects, and staff development, based on need. The requirement would apply only to such funds available for a school year that exceeded the amount available in the 2008-09 school year.

This bill would take effect September 1, 2009.

SUPPORTERS SAY: CSHB 636 would increase funding for adult basic education for certain counties in Texas by distributing state and federal funding above the 2008-09 school year level based on need. The current funding formula distributes 75 percent of state and federal appropriations to counties based on reported hours of contact with clients and 25 percent based on the number of eligible adults in the geographic region, and this serves only 2.7 percent of the eligible adults in Texas. Border counties are in particular need of increased funding because they have more than 10,000 eligible

adults on waiting lists — individuals over the age of 16, not in school, and without a high school diploma or equivalent— but do not have the money to generate enough contact hours with these adults to qualify for additional state and federal funding. The bill ultimately would increase the number of educated adults in Texas.

It is important that funding be distributed based on need because some counties are allocated large sums of money but do not have adult basic education programs, in which case the money is allocated for other purposes. The bill would provide accountability while also providing funding to counties that need it the most. It would not decrease the funding for any county because the bill would apply only to funding above current levels.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 774 by Lucio, has been referred to the Senate Education Committee.