

- SUBJECT:** Reducing duplicate reports and paperwork for school districts
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Aycock, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Galindo, González, Huberty, K. King, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Dutton, Farney
- WITNESSES:** For — Sally LaRue and Cara Schwartz, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Barbara Frandsen, League of Women Voters of Texas; Ted Melina Raab, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Nelson Salinas, Texas Association of Business; Colby Nichols, Texas Association of Community Schools ; Texas Rural Education Association; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Lonnie Hollingsworth, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Janna Lilly, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Michael Pacheco, Texas Farm Bureau; Courtney Boswell, Texas Institute for Education Reform; Cameron Petty, Texas Institute for Education Reform; Monty Exter, The Association of Texas Professional Educators)
- Against — None
- On — Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Von Byer, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 7.060 requires the education commissioner at least once every even-numbered year to review and, to the extent practicable, reduce the amount of paperwork and written reports the Texas Education Agency requires of school districts.

Sec. 11.201 establishes the role and duties of the superintendent in a

school district.

DIGEST: HB 1706 would amend Education Code, sec. 7.060 to include in the education commissioner's review of mandated reports and paperwork a comparison of those documents required by state law and those required by federal law. The commissioner would be required to eliminate state-mandated paperwork and reports that duplicate the content of federally mandated paperwork and reports.

The bill would require a school district's superintendent to ensure that a copy of any report mandated by federal law, rule, or regulation was delivered to the Texas Education Agency.

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, 2015.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1706 would decrease the amount of reports and paperwork school districts currently must submit to the state. School districts spend a significant amount of time manually monitoring compliance and information related to student outcomes through gathering and analyzing paperwork. This work is onerous, redundant, and provides little insight into improving student outcomes.

This bill would alleviate the amount of paperwork school district employees had to produce. Spending less time on paperwork would permit essential personnel to actively focus on student outcomes. Because the bill would require the elimination only of redundant paperwork, the state would not lose any valuable information by enacting this legislation.

OPPONENTS SAY: HB 1706 would fail to recognize the nuances of Texas' education monitoring system. Information the federal government requires may not be analyzed and measured in the same way Texas' system analyzes and measures information. While reducing the paperwork and reports school districts must process is a worthy goal, the Legislature should be careful about what information might be lost in the simplification process.