

SUBJECT: Excluding certain students in residential facilities from dropout rates

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Earl Jarrett, Brazos ISD; Terry Myers, Crockett ISD; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Mark Wiggins, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Addie Gomez, Texans for Quality Public Charter Schools; Ted Melina Raab, Texas AFT (American Federation of Teachers); Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell and Vernagene Mott, Texas Association of School Boards; Veronica Garcia, Texas Charter Schools Association; Janna Lilly, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Ellen Arnold, Texas PTA; Colby Nichols, Texas Rural Education Association; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Portia Bosse, Texas State Teachers Association; Tami Keeling, Victoria ISD and TASB)

Against — None

On — Shannon Housson, Texas Education Agency; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kara Belew, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Students living in certain residential facilities often are served by the local school districts during their time there. Education Code, sec. 39.054(f) establishes that a student who leaves a residential treatment center after receiving treatment for fewer than 85 days and who fails to enroll in school may not be considered to have dropped out from the district or campus serving the treatment center unless that district or campus is where the student is regularly assigned.

DIGEST: HB 1731 would exclude from a school district's dropout rate certain additional students who receive educational services from the district while living in a residential treatment center located within the district and who fail to enroll in school after leaving the treatment center. The bill would apply to all students who were not regularly assigned to the district in which the treatment center was located, regardless of how many days they had been receiving treatment at the center.

HB 1731 would place residential facilities serving students in special education programs in the same category as residential treatment centers for the purpose of computing dropout rates among students who left and did not enroll elsewhere.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 1731 would address the computation of dropout rates by school districts that provide educational services to students living temporarily in a residential facility in their districts. At times, these students may leave a facility and fail to enroll in school elsewhere, resulting in their potential inclusion as a dropout from the district that had been serving them while they were living at the facility. Some residential facilities are located in smaller school districts, and the inclusion of even a few additional dropouts can have a disproportionate impact on that district's academic performance report. Students who are not regularly assigned to the district where the residential facility is located should not be considered to have dropped out from the district regardless of how long they received educational services there, and the bill could help clarify this practice.

OPPONENTS SAY: No apparent opposition.