

- SUBJECT:** Changing the name of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 10 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — E. Johnson
- WITNESSES:** For — Cheryl Sparks, Howard College; Dale Kesterson and Jeff Anderson, Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf (SWCID); Luis Landa; Oluwatobi Lisoyi
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code ch. 131 establishes the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf as a state-supported school within the Howard Junior College District to provide postsecondary educational instruction for hearing-impaired students.
- Natural Resources Code ch. 31 includes the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf in its definition of an institution of higher education.
- DIGEST:** HB 1101 would change the name of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf to the Southwest College for the Deaf. Any reference in law to the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf would be taken to mean the Southwest College for the Deaf, and any appropriations for the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf would be available to the Southwest College for the Deaf.
- This bill would take effect September 1, 2019.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** HB 1101 would change the name of the Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf to better reflect the mission and purpose of the school. The

American Sign Language sign for "institute" carries a stigmatizing connotation for the deaf community by implying that deafness is medically treated at the school. The school is a community college, not a medical facility, and changing the name to Southwest College for the Deaf would help clarify the school's role, potentially leading to greater awareness and an increase in enrollment.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

No concerns identified.