

SUBJECT: Creating an electronic application system for state student financial aid

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Drew Scheberle, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Gilbert Zavala, Austin Chamber of Commerce; Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Fatima Menendez, Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund; Sophie Torres, San Antonio Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; Libby McCabe, The Commit Partnership; Julie Gilberg; Idona Griffith; CJ Grisham; Ash Hall)

Against — None

On — Jerel Booker, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board

DIGEST: CSHB 2140 would require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to adopt procedures to allow a person to complete and submit the Texas Application for State Financial Aid (TASFA) or a similar application for state student financial assistance through the same website through which THECB provides common admission application forms.

THECB would appoint an advisory committee composed of financial aid personnel at higher education institutions and relevant stakeholders who represented students' needs to assist THECB in adopting procedures to implement the bill. THECB would report the advisory committee's recommendations to the committee of each house of the Legislature with jurisdiction over higher education by January 1, 2021. This provision would expire January 1, 2023.

The bill would require THECB to maintain an online database of institutions of higher education to which state financial assistance may be applied.

Personal information maintained by THECB for the online application system would be confidential.

The bill would apply beginning with financial aid applications submitted for the 2022-2023 academic year.

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, 2019.