

**SUBJECT:** Requiring open-enrollment charter schools to post certain information

**COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended

**VOTE:** 13 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; John Armbrust, Austin Achieve; Ginny Janak, CLEAR Public Charter School; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Colby Nichols, Fast Growth School Coalition; Hannah LaPorte, IDEA Public Schools; Eddie Conger, International Leadership of Texas Public Charter Schools; Laurie Filipelli, League of Women Voters of Texas; Staci Weaver, Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy; Kathleen Zimmermann, NYOS Charter School; Jennifer Goodman, Odyssey Academy and Texas Charter School Association; Bob Popinski, Raise Your Hand Texas; Billy Rudolph, ResponsiveEd; Patty Quinzi, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell and Jayme Mathias, Texas Association of School Boards; Pablo Barrera, Christine Nishimura, and Thomas Sage, Texas Charter School Association; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; and seven individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Joe Hoffer; Jessica Perez)

On — Mark Larson, KIPP Texas Public Schools; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Eric Marin and Heather Mauze, Texas Education Agency)

**BACKGROUND:** Local Government Code sec. 171.002 defines a person with substantial interest in a business entity as a person that:

- owns 10 percent or more of the voting stock or shares of a business entity;
- owns either 10 percent or more or \$15,000 or more of the fair market value of a business entity; or
- received more than 10 percent of the person's gross income for the previous year from a business entity.

Interested parties have called for more transparency for the governing bodies of open-enrollment charter schools, beyond publishing the names of board members.

**DIGEST:**

CSHB 2987 would require an open-enrollment charter school to make certain information regarding members of the school's governing body easily accessible on the school's website.

The information would have to include:

- relevant biographical information for each member, including employment history and educational experience;
- whether a member had a substantial interest in a business entity, and if so, whether that business entity contracted with the school;
- the total number of members;
- the manner in which the members were selected as described in the school's charter;
- the terms of service of each member; and
- the total number of years each member had served.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.