

SUBJECT: Requiring school districts to ensure sufficient time to teach curricula

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M.
González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Allen

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lonnie Hollingsworth, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association)

Against — Mark Terry, TEPSA, TASB, TACS, TASA; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: CSHB 4310 would require school districts to adopt a recommended or designated scope and sequence for a subject in the required curriculum that allows for sufficient time to be provided for teachers to teach and for students to learn the essential knowledge and skills for the subject and grade level.

The bill would prohibit districts from penalizing a teacher who did not follow a recommended or designated scope and sequence for such a subject if the teacher's deviation stemmed from the teacher's determination that the teacher's students needed more or less time in a specific area to demonstrate proficiency in the essential knowledge and skills for that subject and grade level.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school 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.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 4310 would recognize the right of teachers to determine the level of instruction based on the students' mastery of the material rather than a timetable imposed from outside the classroom. This bill would ensure that teachers were not penalized for organizing class time around the needs of their students.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

CSHB 4310 would remove a district's ability to ensure that students were being taught the essential knowledge and skills related to a given subject. Scope and sequence requirements are a valuable tool districts use to ensure students meet state curriculum guidelines. To help students achieve these goals, districts must be able to require teachers to adhere to the relevant guidelines.