

SUBJECT: Requiring solicitation of feedback on state mandates from school districts

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

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

0 nays

1 absent — Dutton

WITNESSES: For — Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors
Association; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Barry Haenisch, Texas
Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association
of School Administrators; Dominic Giarratani, Texas Association of
School Boards; Kristin McGuire, Texas Council of Administrators of
Special Education)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matthew Simcock, Texas Education
Agency)

BACKGROUND: Education Code ch. 8 directs the commissioner of education to provide for
the establishment and operation of regional education service centers to
assist school districts in improving student performance in each region of
the system, enable school districts to operate more efficiently and
economically, and implement initiatives assigned by the Legislature or the
commissioner.

DIGEST: CSHB 674 would require the commissioner of education, while
conducting an annual review of regional education service centers, to
solicit certain information from school districts served by the centers.

The commissioner would solicit information about districts' reliance on
the centers for assistance in complying with state education laws and rules

and the specific state education laws or rules for which compliance was most burdensome and expensive.

The commissioner could not use information solicited through these provisions in the annual evaluation of the centers.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 674 would establish a process for school districts served by education service centers to report which state education laws and rules were most onerous and expensive for compliance purposes. This would allow lawmakers to work toward relieving school districts of some of those burdens. Because the bill would simply add questions to an existing voluntary survey from the education commissioner, it would not be a burden to school districts.

Education service centers serve an important supportive role for school districts, especially small or rural districts that may lack resources to fulfill state mandates. Information gathered as a result of CSHB 674 would help the centers tailor services for the areas they serve.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.