

SUBJECT: Disqualifying convicted felons from serving on school district boards

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, K. King,  
Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — M. González

1 present not voting — Allen

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 7 — 30-1 (Creighton)

WITNESSES: No public hearing

DIGEST: SB 2283 would make an individual who was convicted of or who pleaded guilty or nolo contendere to a felony ineligible from serving on a school district board of trustees.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to a member of a school district's board of trustees who was elected or appointed on or after that date. A member of a school board elected or appointed before the effective date of the bill would continue to serve for the term to which the member was elected or appointed unless otherwise removed as provided by law.

SUPPORTERS SAY: SB 2283 would promote trust in Texas public schools and protect these schools and their students by prohibiting individuals who had been convicted or pleaded guilty or no contest to a felony from serving on the school board. Currently, school board trustees who are convicted of or who have pleaded guilty or no contest to a felony still are allowed to serve on school boards. Preventing these individuals from serving on school boards in a place of trust would protect public schools and set a positive example for students.

OPPONENTS  
SAY:

SB 2283 could unfairly deprive individuals who had paid their debts to society from serving on school district boards of trustees. Even individuals convicted of felonies or who have pleaded guilty or no contest to a felony should have a second opportunity to participate in their communities.