

SUBJECT: Prohibiting open-enrollment charter school employees from striking

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Huberty, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, K. King, Meyer, VanDeaver
3 nays — Bernal, Allen, Talarico
2 absent — Dutton, Sanford
1 present not voting — M. González

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 1 — 22-9 (Alvarado, Johnson, Lucio, Menéndez, Rodríguez, Watson, West, Whitmire, Zaffirini)

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 2487:*
For — Starlee Coleman, Texas Charter Schools Association; Thomas Fuller (*Registered, but did not testify*): Scott Jensen, American Federation for Children; Anna Amboree, Aristoi Classical Academy; Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; John Armbrust and Mackee Mason, Austin Achieve Public Schools; Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Mark Cronenwett, Great Hearts Texas; Samuel Goessling and Hannah LaPorte, IDEA Public Schools; Eddie Conger, International Leadership of Texas Public Charter Schools; Staci Weaver, Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy; Brent Wilson, Life School; Jennifer Limas-Mota, New Frontiers Public Schools; Kathleen Zimmermann and David Molina, Nyos Charter School; Jennifer Goodman, Odyssey Academy and Texas Charter School Association; Richard Rickey, Orend Education; Bob Popinski, Raise Your Hand Texas; Billy Rudolph, ResponsiveEd; Pablo Barrera and Thomas Sage, Texas Charter School Association; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; Suzi Kennon, Texas PTA; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance, and 15 individuals)

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

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Jones and Heather Mauze, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Government Code ch. 617 prohibits public employees from entering into a collective bargaining agreement with a labor organization or from engaging in an organized work stoppage against the state or a political subdivision of the state.

DIGEST: SB 2293 would consider an open-enrollment charter school employee to be a public employee with respect to collective bargaining and strikes. An open-enrollment charter school would be considered a political subdivision, and members of the governing body of a charter holder or open-enrollment charter school and officials of an open-enrollment charter school would be considered officials of a political subdivision.

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. It would not apply to a collective bargaining contract entered into before the bill's effective date but would prohibit the renewal of such a contract.