

- SUBJECT:** Establishing the Texas Commission on Community College Finance
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, Ortega, Raney, C. Turner, J. Turner
- 0 nays
- 3 absent — P. King, Muñoz, Parker
- WITNESSES:** For — Todd Williams, Commit Partnership; Robert Glaser, Community College Association of Texas Trustees; Jacob Fraire, Texas Association of Community Colleges; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ben Stratmann, Dallas Regional Chamber; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Gilbert Zavala, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Molly Weiner, United Ways of Texas; Susana Carranza; Sarah Garcia; Vanessa MacDougal; Suzanne Mitchell)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Alamo Colleges District)
- BACKGROUND:** Interested parties have noted that funding formulas for public junior colleges in Texas have not been updated in nearly 50 years. Some have called for a commission to be established to study the issue and make recommendations to the Legislature on funding for these institutions.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3351 would establish the Texas Commission on Community College Finance. The commission would make recommendations for consideration by the 88th Legislature regarding the state funding formula and funding levels for public junior colleges in Texas that would be sufficient to sustain junior college education and training offerings throughout the state and improve student outcomes in alignment with the

state's postsecondary goals.

The commission would be composed of 12 members, including:

- four members appointed by the governor;
- three members appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- three members appointed by the House speaker;
- one member appointed by the board of the Texas Association of Community Colleges; and
- one member appointed by the board of the Community College Association of Texas Trustees.

One of the members appointed by the governor would have to be a faculty member at a public junior college, and the other members appointed by the governor must be representatives of junior college leaders, business leaders, or other stakeholders with knowledge of junior colleges' missions, instructional programs, and finances.

The lieutenant governor and House speaker each would select two members of the Senate and House of Representatives, respectively, and each would select one administrator from a public junior college.

In making appointments, the governor, lieutenant governor, and House speaker would be required to ensure that the membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the geographic diversity of Texas public junior colleges and the ethnic diversity of the communities served by those junior colleges.

The commission must examine trend and forecast data, seek stakeholder input, and account for equity in student outcomes. Based on its findings, it must make recommendations on:

- the components of state funding for public junior colleges, including contact hour funding formulas established for public junior colleges; and
- the feasibility of establishing shared service agreements or

interinstitutional collaborations through which institutions of higher education could perform administrative services, other than direct instruction and student support services, for other institutions of higher education for a fee or other consideration.

The commission could seek resource support, including data analyses and technical assistance, from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the Texas Association of Community Colleges, and research organizations. The commission could accept gifts, grants, and donations from any source to carry out a commission function.

The commission would be required to convene no later than October 15, 2021, and must continue its activities until completion of a final report, which it must submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and both houses of the Legislature no later than November 1, 2022.

The bill's provisions would expire January 1, 2023.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021.