SUBJECT: Allowing parents to elect for a student to repeat a course or grade

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 13 ayes — Buckley, Allen, Allison, Cunningham, Dutton, Cody Harris,
                       Harrison, Hefner, Hinojosa, K. King, Longoria, Schaefer, Talarico

                       0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Carrie Moore, Texas Education 911 and County Citizens
                       Defending Freedom (*Registered, but did not testify*: Frank Corte,
                       International Leadership Texas; Gabriel Grantham, Texas 2036; Whitney
                       Broughton, Texas Association of School Boards; Bryce Adams, Texas
                       Public Charter Schools Association; Michelle Evans; Mary Lowe)

                       Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Julia Grizzard, Bexar County
                       Education Coalition; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community
                       Schools; Cerena Haefs, Denishea Williams, Texas Freedom Network; Kai
                       Bovik)

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

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that provisions allowing parents of students in
                       grades four through eight to chose for their child to repeat a course or
                       grade level if the parent determines the child has not properly learned the
                       material have expired and should be reinstated.

DIGEST: HB 3803 would add grades four through eight to the school levels under
                       which a parent or guardian of a student in those grades could elect for the
                       student to repeat the grade in which they were enrolled the previous
                       school year. The parent or guardian of a high school student could elect
                       for the student to repeat any course from the previous school year, unless
                       the school district or open-enrollment charter school determined the
                       student had met all the requirements for graduation.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-2024 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, 2023.