



## House Public Education Committee Hearing Friday, April 17, 2009

The House Public Education Committee met on Thursday, April 16, 2009 to hear testimony on a variety of bills including **HB 3421**, filed by **Rep. Eissler**, which relates to educator preparation programs, educator certification, performance, and recruitment. **Rep. Patrick's HB 1563** was also heard and relates to the increase of open-enrollment charters the state may grant. Several organizations gave testimony on a variety of bills including the **Texas Association of School Administrators** and the **Texas Association of School Boards**.

All of the bills heard in committee yesterday were left pending. However, several bills heard previously were passed out of committee, and they are included at the end of this summary. Notably, **HB 130** which is **Rep. Patrick's** bill regarding a pre-kindergarten expansion was passed out of committee and placed on the general calendar.

### **HB 131 Chisum**

Relating to the treatment of students receiving a high school equivalency certificate in calculating dropout rates in public schools.

**Remarks:** As filed: Prohibits students earning a GED from counting as a dropout for accountability purposes.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Chisum** introduced a bill that would not count students receiving GEDs as dropouts. **Rep. Shelton** questioned the bill's required time frame within which a student must receive their GED in order to not be counted as a dropout. **Rep. Chisum** explained that the student must immediately transition from a regular high school program into a GED program or take the GED exam. Students that dropout and then receive their GED at a later time would still be counted as dropouts.

**Ted Molina Rabb** offered the first public testimony on this bill, on behalf of **Texas-American Federation of Teachers (TX-AFT)**. Mr. Rabb gave neutral testimony due to a concern that this bill may make it too easy for students to substitute a high school diploma with a GED. He stated that this may cause some districts to push students towards receiving a GED rather than achieving a high school diploma.

Several individuals and organizations registered for the bill but did not provide oral testimony including **Julie Shields** with the **Texas Association of School Boards (TASB)** and Amy Beneski with the **Texas Association of School Administrators (TASA)**.

*The bill was left pending.*

## HB 474 Allen

Relating to the authority of a school district to implement a monitoring system that records images of vehicles that pass a stopped school bus.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill allows for a school bus to be equipped with a monitoring system that is able to take electronic or video images of vehicles that pass the bus and may be operated only when the bus is stopped on the highway to load or unload students. Images recorded on this system may be used in the prosecution of an offense. This bill also allows the board of trustees of a school district to impose a civil penalty on the registered owner of a vehicle that commits a violation.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Allen** introduced a committee substitute which allows school districts to contract with a municipality, a county, or an administration system.

**Rick Sorrells, Superintendent of Dallas County Schools,** offered supportive testimony for this bill due to the safety measures it would help put in place for students.

**Dwight Harris** registered for the bill on behalf of **TX-AFT**.

## HB 504 Kolkhorst

Relating to the creation of an offense for a parent's contribution to a child's failure to comply with a sentence or court order relating to a disruptive activity or disruption of class on school property.

**Remarks:** As filed: A parent commits an offense (Class C Misdemeanor) if: the parent's child is convicted of or adjudicated as having engaged in delinquent conduct or conduct indicating a need for supervision for conduct constituting the commission of an offense of disruption of activities, classes or transportation; the child has not complied with the terms of the child's sentence or a court order relating to the conviction or adjudication; and the parent with criminal negligence has contributed to, caused, or encouraged the child to fail to comply with the terms of the child's sentence or a court order relating to the conviction or adjudication.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Kolkhorst** laid out the background and purpose of the bill and explained that it was first introduced during the 80<sup>th</sup> session. **Rep. Shelton** questioned whether the bill will provide for parenting classes to which **Rep. Kolkhorst** explained that it does not include parenting classes but rather includes a "hammer" to mandate teacher or guardian involvement. **Rep. Olivo** then expressed concern that this bill will create additional financial burdens on low-income parents. **Rep. Dutton** followed these statements with similar sentiments about the potentially negative impact this could have on low-income families.

Public testimony began with **Judge John LeFleur, Justice of the Peace for Grimes County** who expressed significant support for the bill due to the level of enforcement it would allow the court. He spent time highlighting his personal experiences working with students and families to explain the bill's importance.

A representative with the **American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)**, registered against the bill and **Lindsay Gustafson** with the **Texas Classroom Teachers Association (TCTA)** registered for the bill.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 1410 Ortiz**

Relating to student information required to be provided at the time of enrollment in public schools.

**Remarks:** As filed: Requires a school district to request that a parent or guardian disclose whether the child being enrolled in the district has a food allergy that should be disclosed to the district to enable the district to take necessary precautions regarding the child's safety. The parent must specify the food allergy the district must maintain the confidentiality of the information. This bill also requires signs to be posted in elementary school classrooms in which a child with a severe food allergy is placed. This sign may not identify the child or the nature of the allergy.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Ortiz** introduced a committee substitute which requires that a student must bring a doctor's note to verify the allergy.

**Ted Molina Rabb**, with **TX-AFT**, spoke in favor of this bill because of the importance that nurses be aware of student food allergies. He also explained that the doctor's note will legally allow nurses to administer epinephrine medication.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 1470 Thibaut**

Relating to a requirement that school districts notify employees regarding entitlement to leave in circumstances involving assault.

**Remarks:** As Filed: Requires a school district to notify each district employee before the last day of the first week of the fall semester of their right to days of leave if they are physically assaulted during the performance of their regular duties. The notification must be in bold type and 14 point font and may be provided either electronically or on paper.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Thibaut** laid out the bill and discussed the benefits this bill would afford school employees who have been assaulted.

**Portia Bosse** offered supportive testimony for this bill on behalf of the **Texas State Teachers Association** (TSTA). Ms. Bosse provided anecdotes about teacher assault and explained how this bill would have benefited these individuals. **Alejandra Julia Martin** spoke next and opposed the bill on behalf of the **Texas Association of School Personnel Administrators** (TASPA). She explained that it does not make sense for assault leave information to be highlighted separately from other information in the employee handbook, as all information in the handbook is equally important.

Witnesses not wishing to testify but registered in favor of the bill include **Dwight Harris** of **TX-AFT**, **Monty Exter** of **Association of Texas Professional Educators** (ATPE), and **Lindsay Gustafson** with **TCTA**.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 1563 Patrick, Diane**

Relating to the number of charters the State Board of Education may grant for open-enrollment charter schools.

**Remarks:** As Filed: States the SBOE may not grant more than 10 new charters for an open-enrollment charter school each fiscal year.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Patrick** explained the purpose of the bill to add 10 new charters. In response to a question by **Rep. Shelton**, Rep. Patrick explained that, in discussions with Commissioner Scott, she chose the number 10 because it is a number that the agency could handle while still allowing for new programs.

**Brooke Terry** with the **Texas Public Policy Foundation** offered neutral testimony on the bill and explained that the organization feels the number should be expanded beyond ten additional charters. She went on to state the need to consider a moving cap rather than setting it firmly at ten charters. **Rep. Patrick** explained that she is willing to consider a slight number increase but is cautious in order not to burden TEA.

**Lindsay Gustafson** with the **TCTA** offered neutral testimony on the bill because of a concern regarding the addition of more charter schools without additional funding for TEA administration costs. She also reiterated the need for low performing charter schools to be closed, at which point more charters will become available. **Ted Molina Rabb** also offered neutral testimony on the bill on behalf of **TX-AFT**. His statements echoed those made by Ms. Gustafson but expressed appreciation for the “reasonable” number of ten versus a higher number. **Monty Exter** with **ATPE** emphasized the need to ensure that TEA does not become overburdened with excessive charter processing along with making sure that existing charters are effective.

**Alejandra Julia Martin** spoke on behalf of herself as an educational researcher and suggested that independent school districts each be allowed to run one campus within its district under charter school rules but under the district’s jurisdiction. **Rep. Patrick** agreed that this might be a feasible possibility and expressed interest in pursuing this idea in future legislation.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 1839 Howard, Donna**

Relating to a requirement that a school district develop and adopt a site selection policy before selecting a site for construction of a new school.

**Remarks:** As filed: Requires school districts to adopt a site selection policy prior to selecting a site for the building of a new school facility. A school district with no plan of building a new school is not required to develop a policy as outlined under this section. The policy must include a method for obtaining public input about the site selection, procedures for disqualifying a site, procedures for conducting an environmental site assessment, procedures for notifying the public about environmental assessment results, and procedures for requesting site approval from TCEQ if the approved site has one or more known environmental hazards. If site selection occurs in an area with known environmental hazards, and TCEQ has not been notified, then TCEQ is given authority to impose penalties against the school district, not to exceed \$5,000 and \$100 for every day that the agency was not notified.

**Testimony: Rep. Howard** introduced a committee substitute which incorporates changes regarding when and where public insight may be solicited. Particularly, this change intends lower the potential of driving up property prices.

**Kristine Ackerman** along with several other mothers expressed their support for the bill and concerns about the environmental issues that could impact students' health if public school sites are not carefully monitored for environmental hazards. These testimonies were followed by **Elaina Kraft**, a toxicologist from the **Environmental Defense Fund**, also offered her support for the bill as it will ensure sound policy to determine the site of public school buildings. **Ted Molina Rabb**, with **TX-AFT**, offered supportive testimony and noted that currently 30 states have similar legislation, in response to a question by **Rep. Weber**.

Witnesses not wishing to testify included **Lindsay Gustafson** with **TCTA** and several health related organizations who all registered for the bill.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 2193 Christian**

Relating to Texas History Month curriculum requirements for students in public schools.

**Remarks:** As filed: Creates a section in the Education Code that mandates specific topics to include in curriculum during Texas History Month. These include: the principles of the Texas Constitution; the traditions of state government; the difference between the Texas and U.S. Constitutions; and historical and cultural impacts of the Texas Constitution.

**Testimony: Rep. Christian** laid out the purpose of the bill and explained the need to develop Texas specific curriculum.

Public testimony began with **Elizabeth Whitlow** on behalf of the **Friends of San Jacinto Battle Ground** who was supportive of the bill. She explained that without this legislation, Texas students may lose their sense of heritage. **Anita Givens** with **TEA** was called on to answer various questions from the committee regarding current social studies curriculum standards.

**Jonathan Wolf** with **ACLU** registered in favor of the bill but did not provide oral testimony.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 2759 Martinez Fischer**

Relating to transfer of a student of limited English proficiency out of a public school bilingual education or special language program.

**Remarks:** As filed: Adds the requirement that for a student to be able to participate equally in a regular all-English instructional program, they must have developed oral and written language proficiency in both English and their primary language. Removes the requirement that students enrolled in first or second grade must score in the 40th percentile in the reading and language arts sections of an English standardized test.

**Testimony: Rep. Martinez Fischer** introduced the bill explaining its purpose and scope.

A legislative consultant for the **Texas Association for Bilingual Education** spoke in favor of the bill due to the educational opportunities it would establish for LEP students.

Several witnesses registered their support for the bill including **Portia Bosse** with **TSTA**, **Monty Exter** of **ATPE**, and **Dwight Harris** with **TX-AFT**.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 3051 Anchia**

Relating to the term for which certain charters granted for open- enrollment charter schools are renewed.

**Remarks:** As filed: A charter is renewed for 25 years after each of the following are satisfied: 1. One or more open-enrollment charter schools have been operating for at least five years under the charter as granted or previously renewed; 2. Each school that has been operating under the charter has been rated as exemplary or recognized for at least three of the five preceding school years or for each school year in which the school has been operating if the school has been operating for less than three school years; 3. Each school operating under the charter has received an unqualified opinion in the most recent independent auditor's report of the school's finances; 4. The agency has determined that neither the charter holder or a school operating under the charter is at risk of financial insolvency; 5. The charter holder has provided written notice to the SBOE that these requirements have been met; and 6. The SBOE has made a determination that these requirements have been met.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Anchia** introduced the bill and explained the need for high performing charter schools to have assistance with facilities funding. Committee members asked several specific questions about this bill but were generally supportive. Rep. Anchia expressed concern that this bill might be caught up in general charter school debates and asked the committee to focus on the specific issues this bill seeks to address.

**Brook Terry** provided supportive testimony on behalf of the **Texas Public Policy Foundation** and emphasized that this bill only focuses on high achieving charter schools. This was followed by **Lindsay Gustafson** with **TCTA** who offered neutral testimony on the bill because of the length of time it would allow for a charter renewal.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 3421 Eissler**

Relating to educator preparation programs and educator certification, performance, and recruitment.

**Remarks:** As filed: The board may propose a rule adopting a fee for the approval or renewal of approval of an educator preparation program, or for the addition of a certificate or field of certification to the scope of a program's approval. A fee imposed may not exceed the amount necessary, as determined by the board, to provide for the administrative cost of approving, renewing the approval of, and appropriately ensuring the accountability of educator preparation programs.



**Testimony:** **Rep. Eissler** introduced the committee substitute which requires TEA to publish a biennial report on educator staffing conditions, strengthens confidentiality provisions for teachers participating in the staffing survey, examines student growth to measure a teacher's value-add, allows the agency to intervene in cases of low performance in teacher prep programs, and expands the focus of teacher shortage areas beyond math and science.

**Alejandra Julia Martin** with **TASPA** was supportive of the bill particularly because of the preparation tools it provides to strengthen retention. **Andrew Urban** with the **Texas Institute for Education Reform** was generally supportive of the bill but will submit suggestions to the author. **Lindsay Gustafson** provided neutral testimony on the bill for **TCTA** particularly due to concerns with the growth measure attributable to students as this is difficult to measure.

**Jennifer Canaday** with **ATPE** also offered neutral testimony due to concerns with the original bill that the substitute has remedied. She noted that although many ATPE recommendations are included in the substitute, the GPA exception allowing lower teacher GPAs in certain cases, should be excluded.

**Ted Molina Rabb** with **TX-AFT** explained that he intended to testify neutrally but feels the bill is more favorable with beneficial changes in the substitute. This sentiment was echoed by **Portia Bosse** of **TSTA**. **Kevin O'Hanlon** with **Texas Teachers** provided neutral testimony on the bill due to a few specific issues. He explained that language should be changed in order to allow the legislature and agency to define various performance standards. Language should also be changed to "pedagogy exams" and not include references to specific subject area testing.

**Diane Huber** with **ITeach Texas** also testified on the bill. Ms. Huber supports the concept of the accountability measures but indicates that many of the accountability details must be clarified. **Dr. Ed Fuller**, an educational consultant was generally supportive of the bill but offered several suggestions to strengthen the legislation.

*The bill was left pending.*

## **HB 3700 Jackson, Jim**

Relating to the creation of the Texas Classroom Coaching Program.

**Remarks:** As filed: Allows a Texas Classroom Coaching program to be implemented into a district's improvement plans with the objectives to: Improve student academic performance; and Reduce dropout rates. An employee who serves as a volunteers as a Texas Classroom Coach shall be excused, without a deduction in pay, from a total of 80 hours per school year.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Jackson** laid out the scope and purpose of the bill.

**Drew Scheberle** with the **Austin Chamber of Commerce** offered supportive testimony for this bill because it encourages civic participation and growth for students. **Catherine Brewer** with **Austin Partners in Education** also provided testimony in support of the bill because of the program's positive impact on student achievement.

**Amy Beneski** with **TASA** and **Mark Williams**, school board president for Austin ISD both registered in favor of the bill

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4091 Farrar**

Relating to an intensive reading improvement program for public school students of limited English proficiency.

**Remarks:** As filed: Establishes the intensive reading improvement program which provides students of limited English proficiency, a reading improvement program that is designed to prevent students from having long-term reading difficulties, and reduces the risk of students dropping out of school. The program also provides individualized, intensive, and accelerated instruction and is aligned with the required curriculum. A school district shall begin providing instruction under the program to a student of limited English proficiency before the student enters the seventh grade.

Removes the requirement that TEA must ensure that assessment instruments are capable of being administered on computers.

**Testimony:** Rep. Farrar introduced the bill and explained the ways in which it would improve reading achievement for LEP students. She noted that a committee substitute will become available as soon as legislative council completes a draft of the document.

There was no oral testimony for this bill but several individuals did register in favor of the bill including **Dwight Harris** with **TX-AFT** and **Monty Exter** with **ATPE**.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4208 Patrick, Diane**

Relating to idling the diesel engine of a school bus while the bus is parked at a public school or school event.

**Remarks:** As filed: The driver of a school bus equipped with a diesel engine may not allow the idling of the bus engine while the bus is parked at a school or school event. This bill does not prohibit the idling of a school bus diesel engine for the minimum time necessary to heat or cool the bus before departure, provided that the engine is turned off when a student is embarking or disembarking, or as necessary to accommodate the physical needs of a student who receives special education services, regardless of whether students are embarking or disembarking.

**Testimony:** Rep. Patrick laid out the bill and discussed the health implications that this bill seeks to address.

A representative from the **Environmental Defense Fund** expressed support for the bill and discussed the cost savings and health benefits associated with this bill.

**Julie Shields** with **TASB**, **Portia Bosse** with **TSTA**, and **Monty Exter** with **ATPE** all registered in favor of the bill, among several others.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4407 Taylor**



Relating to maintaining a supply of anaphylaxis medicine on public school campuses served by school nurses.

**Remarks:** As filed: A school district shall maintain at each campus at which a school nurse serves on a part-time or full-time basis a supply of anaphylaxis medicine that may be administered to persons on campus experiencing an anaphylactic reaction.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Taylor** laid out the background and purpose of the bill and introduced a committee substitute that provides more specific details about the bill's implementation.

**Ted Molina Rabb**, with **TX-AFT**, gave the only oral testimony and was supportive of the bill. He noted the importance of Rep. Taylor's substitute, which requires that students with allergies needing epinephrine provide the school nurse with a doctor's notification.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4439 Kolkhorst**

Relating to the transmission of information regarding public school students through the use of radio frequency identification technology.

**Remarks:** As filed: A school district may not require a student to use an ID that uses radio frequency identification technology or similar technology to identify the student, transmit information regarding the student, or track the location of the student. A school district that permits the voluntary use of one of these devices shall provide an alternative method of identification for a student if the student's parent or guardian submits timely written objection to the use of radio frequency identification technology.

**Testimony:** **Rep. Kolkhorst** laid out the background and scope of the bill.

Public testimony was given by **Jonathan Wolf** from the **American Civil Liberties Union of Texas**, who spoke in favor of the bill due to the its opt out provision to afford parents the choice in involvement with this system. He went on to explain potential privacy concerns these ID chips may pose for students.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4628 Lucio III**

Relating to school bus safety, including the authority of a school district to implement a monitoring system that captures images of vehicles passing illegally.

**Remarks:** As filed: Allows a school bus to be equipped with a monitoring system capable of: taking photographic or digital images, including video, of vehicles that pass the bus when the bus is stopped to load and unload students; capable of producing live visual images of a child inside the bust that can be viewed remotely; and conforms to Education transportation safety standards.

These images may be used in the prosecution of an offense if the image is otherwise admissible as evidence, clearly shows the vehicle, including the license plate attached to the vehicle, at the time the offences was alleged to have occurred, and is accompanied by an affidavit executed by a peace officer who inspected the image attesting to its authenticity.

The board of trustees of a school district by resolution may impose a civil penalty on the owner of a motor vehicle who commits the offense of passing a school bus. This can provide for a civil penalty of between \$200 and \$1000.

This bill also lays out how a school bus monitoring system may be established. It also states that this system may only be sued for detection of the offense of passing a school bus, collecting a civil penalty and monitoring the safety of children on the bus. Revenues collected from penalties must be deposited in to the M&O fund or the general fund of the district to pay costs related to school bus monitoring systems.

**Testimony: Rep. Lucio III** introduced a committee substitute that deletes the criminal penalties section of the bill, which was an error in its original drafting. He explained the safety reasons behind the development of the bill.

**Rick Sorrells, Superintendent for Dallas County Schools**, detailed a study conducted by his office which revealed the high rate of driver violations. Because of the high rates of driver violations, he offered support for the bill.

**Dwight Harris** registered for the bill on behalf of **ATPE**.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **HB 4111 Martinez Fischer**

Relating to public notice requirements and other provisions applicable to the board of trustees of a school district proposing to close a district campus.

**Remarks:** The bill requires a series of actions on the part of district trustees in the event that they propose to close a campus. These include letters being sent to students scheduled to attend the school, a 90-day period in which hearings are to be conducted, written plans that are publicly accessible, and explanations of the impact on students in terms of programs that are or are not available at the newly assigned campus. There are additional requirements if trustees are elected from single-member trustee districts.

**Testimony: Rep. Martinez Fischer** introduced a committee substitute that makes this bill specific to large school districts. Committee discussion led to several suggestions for the bill specifically the addition of language to allow increased community notice of potential school closures beyond what this bill provides.

Several parents of students enrolled in **San Antonio ISD** schools that were closed with very little community transparency spoke in favor of the bill. They offered personal anecdotes about the negative impacts these closure made on their communities and children.

**Portia Bosse** with **TSTA** and **Dwight Harris** of **TX-AFT** both registered in favor of the bill along with others.

*The bill was left pending.*

**HB 2812 Swinford** Relating to the curriculum, funding, promotion, and economic impact of career and technology education in public educational institutions.

**Remarks:** As filed: This bill establishes the career and technology education curriculum evaluation committee. The committee shall consult with and advise the SBOE concerning rigorous career and tech curriculum, determine courses for each subject of the foundation curriculum, determine dual credit course in coordination with TEA and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and designate credentials earned by students that are considered equivalent to EOC exams.

The SBOE shall require that curriculum requirements include a career and tech education curriculum that provides rigorous, standards-based course work designed to prepare students for employment.

Requires TEA to prepare and deliver a report to the legislature on or before December 1 of each even numbered year concerning the extent to which this code prevents or discourages a student from enrolling in career and tech education courses.

**Testimony:** Rep. Swinford laid out the background and scope of the bill. The **Texas Comptroller, Susan Combs**, gave testimony to discuss the importance of creating CTE evaluation committees. **Reverend James W. Hall of El Paso** has worked on several CTE initiatives in the El Paso community and offered anecdotes to illustrate the effectiveness of such programs.

**John Ramirez** is a community member who participated in **Capital IDEA** and spoke in support of the bill and the programs it would help provide. He shared personal stories to highlight the benefits of CTE programs. **Charles Avery III, board member of Capital IDEA**, explained the personal and economic benefits associated with such programs.

Several individuals and organizations registered their support for the bill including **Lindsay Gustafson** with the **TCTA**.

*The bill was left pending.*

### **Bills Passed out of Committee**

#### **HB 552 Madden**

Relating to the provision of competitive grants to fund programs for certain public school students assigned to disciplinary alternative education programs or in-school suspension.

**Remarks:** As filed: Using funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall award grants to school districts to conduct youth violence prevention, drug abuse prevention, or delinquency prevention programs for students at risk of dropping out of school assigned to a disciplinary alternative education program or an in-school suspension setting.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on local and consent calendar

#### **HB 2803 Hochberg**

Relating to the administration of assessment instruments by computer.

**Remarks:** As filed: The bill repeals section 39.0234, which required TEA to ensure that state assessments were capable of being administered by computer and required the agency to conduct a study of districts' ability to administer state assessments by computer.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on local and consent calendar

### **HB 2893 Hochberg**

Relating to the technology demonstration sites project.

**Remarks:** As filed: Changes the “technology immersion pilot project” to the “technology demonstration sites project.” TEA may by rule establish the technology demonstration sites project to demonstrate the use of technology for improving teaching and learning, leverage digital tools and resources to extend learning opportunities from school to home, and exemplify instructional practices and lessons that support academic learning in the classroom and at home.

The demonstration site project shall leverage existing home computing devices or provide access through electronic device check-out options to extend learning at home. Electronic devices shall be made available to each student in a participating school to allow students at school and home to implement the use of software, on-line courses, and other appropriate learning technologies that have been shown to improve academic achievement.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on local and consent calendar

### **HB 3697 Aycock**

Relating to the issuance of certain tax-supported bonds.

**Remarks:** As filed: A district may demonstrate the ability to pay the principal and interest on a proposed bond and all previously issued bonds by using pro forma debt service projections on the proposed bonds and all previously issued bonds based on current market interest rates and yields, as determined by the district and certified by a financial advisor or consultant to the district. For the purposes of determining pro forma debt service on the proposed bonds and all previously issued bonds, the district shall amortize the proposed bonds and the previously issued bonds over the maximum term for such bonds permitted by law.

A district that demonstrates this ability may issue the proposed bonds in any manner that will produce actual debt service savings of at least 10 percent, as determined by the district, when compared to the pro forma debt service payments on the proposed bonds used to demonstrate that the district has the projected ability to comply. Actual debt service savings shall be determined using the difference between the total amount of the pro forma debt service payments on the proposed bonds and the actual debt service on the proposed bonds, as a percentage of the total amount of the pro forma debt service payments on the proposed bonds.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on the general calendar

### **HB 2657 Hochberg**

Relating to disciplinary action taken against certain public school students on the basis of serious and persistent misbehavior.

**Remarks:** As filed: Adds "serious and persistent misbehavior" to the circumstances that result in a student being removed from the classroom, campus, or placed in a DAEP.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on the general calendar

**HB 130 Patrick**

Relating to an enhanced quality full-day prekindergarten program provided by public school districts in conjunction with community providers.

**Remarks:** As filed: Provides additional funding for school districts that choose to operate an enhanced full day pre-kindergarten program. For school districts operating an enhanced program.

**Action:** Passed out of committee and placed on the general calendar

