Bills to Watch

4/26/2017

How to access: TASBO website>click on Legislative (upper right corner)>Bill Analyses

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**SB370** - would prohibit the suspension, removal or expulsion of students below third grade. In lieu of suspension, removal or expulsion, students below grade three would be allowed to be placed in an alternative instructional setting, in accordance with Section 37.005, Education Code.

Cost estimate - The local cost impact for districts is estimated to range from $65 to $80 per student per day to place students under grade three in an alternative instructional setting in lieu of suspension, removal or expulsion.

**SB610** - would extend online courses through the state virtual school network to kindergarten and elementary grades.

Cost estimate - The amount of the local cost impact would depend upon the district’s technology-related needs assessment to expand instructional technology to additional grades. The needs assessment will vary for all districts, ranging from the purchase of computers and adding network drops to classrooms, in addition to expansion of the technology infrastructure in some districts. Accordingly, the local cost impact for technology-related costs will range from $1,000 to $3,000 per kindergarten and elementary grade student that participates in the state virtual school network.

**HB22** - proposes to overhaul public school accountability. HB 22 proposes to make extensive modifications to how student performance is evaluated and to the Texas Education Agency’s assignment of district and campus accountability ratings. (newer version of HB5)

Cost estimate - The local cost estimate for school districts’ and open-enrollment charter schools’ implementation of HB 22 is estimated to be a substantial dollar amount that will correlate with the enrollment sizes of school district and open-enrollment charter schools. The cost could be up to $100-$200 million.

**HB188** - would require Districts to maintain an average ratio in any prekindergarten Current law requires a ratio of no more than 11 students per teacher or teacher's aide for pre-kindergarten program class of not less than one certified teacher or teacher’s aide for every 10 students.

Cost Estimate - Based on the information received, TASBO estimates that the cost to implement this provision statewide to be $221M to $454M

**HB366** - requires an elective course in ethnic studies at the secondary level.

Cost estimate - Estimated cost to local school districts to offer the required curriculum is $120M for first year of the biennium and $108M each year thereafter.

**HB452** - requires school districts to modify their report cards to reflect the number of students in each student’s class for which a grade is given.
Cost Estimate - Cost estimates for the approximately 300 other districts in the state which utilize other products range from $2,000 for one product to $6,000 to $20,000 for another depending upon the extent of the modification request.

**HB729** - would require positive character trait instruction to students enrolled in grades kindergarten through 12th grade

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cost Estimate -</th>
<th>SY 2017-2018</th>
<th>SY 2018-2019</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Total Per School</td>
<td>$24,805,000</td>
<td>$4,360,250</td>
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**HB1153** - Relating to parental rights and information regarding certain intervention strategies with public school students.

This passing of this bill would expand PEIMS codes for RTI and 504 students.
How To Follow a Bill Using TLO

Below are the basic steps involved in passing a bill into law. Links to information available on the Texas Legislature Online are provided to aid in following these steps.

- **Idea**
  The process for creating a new law starts when a legislator first begins to formulate an idea. An idea for a new law may be suggested by anyone: concerned citizens, special interest groups, state agencies, or the governor, for example. If you have an idea you would like to suggest to your legislator, use the [Who Represents Me](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) website to determine your senator or representative and to find his or her contact information.

- **Introduction**
  During a legislative session, members may introduce new legislation until filing deadlines identified on the legislative dates calendar. When the legislature is in session, the Texas Legislature Online (TLO) home page will include the time that the house and senate are scheduled to convene each day. Methods to view introduced legislation include:
  - **Legislative Reports** - View a list of bills that have been filed in the house or senate.
  - **Bill Status** - View the current status and legislative history for a bill.
  - **Text Search** - Find bills with specific content.
  - **Subject Search** - Find bills on a specific subject using the bill search or the subject index.

  You can create a personal bill list and receive e-mail notification as the status changes on bills you chose to watch.

- **Referral to House/Senate Committee**
  Bills that have been referred to committee may be viewed using:
  - **Legislative Reports**
  - **Bill Search**

- **Considered in House/Senate Committee**
  When a bill is scheduled to be heard by a house or senate committee, public notice is made to allow public participation in the committee process. View [house meeting notices](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) and [senate meeting notices](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) to see which bills are scheduled to be considered at a particular committee meeting.

  Minutes are created by committee clerks after each public hearing. Use this website to view [house meeting minutes](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) and [senate meeting minutes](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/).

  Most committee meetings are available for viewing over the Internet on the [house](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) and [senate](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/) websites.
You can receive notice of upcoming house and senate committee meetings through e-mail.

- **Placed on House/Senate Calendar**
  After a bill has been reported favorably by a committee and the committee report has been printed, the bill is available for placement on a calendar. A calendar is a list of bills and resolutions that are scheduled to be considered by the full house or senate. Use this website to view house calendars and senate calendars.

- **Considered on House/Senate Floor**
  Journals are records of activity that occurs on the house or senate floor and include actions that are taken on a bill and any amendments added to the bill. Use this website to view house journals and senate journals.

  View the amendments website to search for amendments based on chamber, author, bill, reading, and date.

  Proceedings on the house and senate chamber floor may be viewed over the Internet at house and senate websites.

- **Signed/Vetoed by Governor**
  If a bill passes both the house and senate, it may be signed or vetoed by the governor or pass without signature. View the legislative reports to see a list of all bills passed or vetoed.

- **Laws of Texas**
  Once legislation becomes law, it becomes codified as a statute. Statutes may be viewed and searched at the Texas Statutes website.