

SUBJECT: Amending the process to select students for university boards of regents

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Zerwas, Howard, Clardy, Crownover, Martinez, Morrison,  
Raney, C. Turner

0 nays

1 absent — Alonzo

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Susan Brown, Texas Higher  
Education Coordinating Board)

BACKGROUND: Education Code, secs. 51.355 and 51.356 provide the processes for  
selecting student members for the board of regents at the state's university  
systems and institutions that are not part of a university system.

Both processes contain the same timeline and procedure for regent  
selection, requiring the student government of every institution each fall  
to solicit regent applicants and select five applications by January 1. These  
applications are sent either to the system chancellor or, for an individual  
institution, the president, who selects two or more applications that must  
be sent to the governor by February 1.

On June 1, or as soon after as practicable, the governor must appoint an  
applicant for each university system or individual institution to serve as  
the student regent for a one-year term. The governor is not required to  
appoint applicants recommended by a chancellor or president. This has  
been interpreted to mean that students may bypass the application process  
and apply directly to the governor to be appointed a student regent.

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**DIGEST:** Under CSHB 1256, the governor could not appoint a student regent who had not submitted an application to the student government of his or her institution.

This 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, 2015.