

**SUBJECT:** Prohibiting the designated distribution of A-F school ratings

**COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 10 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Allen

**WITNESSES:** For — Barbara Frandsen; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Julie Cowan, AISD board of trustees; David Anderson, Arlington ISD board of trustees; Mark Wiggins, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Barbara Frandsen, League of Women Voters of Texas; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; David Hinojosa, Texas Latino Education Coalition; Yannis Banks, Texas NAACP; Ellen Arnold, Texas PTA; Colby Nichols, Texas Rural Education Association, Instructional Materials Coordinators' Association of Texas; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Chris Frandsen)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Kara Belew, TEA)

**BACKGROUND:** The 84th Legislature in 2015 passed HB 2804 by Aycock, changing the public school accountability system to use letter grades of A-F to rate school districts and campuses in 2018. A preliminary report from the Texas Education Agency to the 85th Legislature on A-F ratings said the system should not be built on a forced distribution so that some set percentage of campuses must get an A or an F. The report said it should be mathematically possible that all campuses achieve an A rating.

DIGEST: HB 2782 would require the Commissioner of Education, for purposes of assigning school districts and campuses an overall and a domain performance rating, to ensure that the method used to evaluate performance:

- was not implemented in a way that provided for a specific designated distribution of ratings to districts and campuses under which a designated percentage received an A rating or an F rating; and
- was implemented in a way that provided the mathematical possibility that all districts and campuses received an A rating.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2017-18 school year.

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, 2017.