

SUBJECT: Reporting the number of bullying and cyberbullying incidents in schools

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 13 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Maurine Molak, David's Legacy Foundation; Michael Morell; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Jacquie Benestante, Autism Society of Texas; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Steven Aleman, Disability Rights Texas; Lauren Rangel, Easterseals Central Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Donnis Baggett and Mike Hodges, Texas Press Association; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Eric Marin and Melody Parrish, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: HB 2642 would require the commissioner of education by rule to require each school district and open-enrollment charter school to report annually through the Public Education Information Management System the number of incidents of bullying that occurred at each campus. Each district or school would be required to specify the number of incidents that included cyberbullying. The Texas Education Agency would maintain the information reported.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 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, 2019.

