

SUBJECT: Removing a salary cap for certain Texas school superintendents

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Dutton

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Aaron Gregg, Texas Association of the Deaf; Lisa Flores)

Against — None

On — Claire Bugen and Angie Wolf, Texas School for the Deaf; William Daugherty, Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired

BACKGROUND: Under Education Code secs. 30.023(d) and 30.053(d), the salaries of the superintendents of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf are capped at 120 percent of the highest-paid instructional administrator at their respective schools.

DIGEST: HB 637 would remove the Education Code's salary cap for the superintendents of the Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired and the Texas School for the Deaf.

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. It would apply to an employment contract entered into or renewed on or after the effective date.

SUPPORTERS HB 637 would make a technical change to address inconsistent parts of

SAY: the law surrounding the salary cap of the superintendents of Texas School for the Deaf and Texas School for the Blind and Visually Impaired. Under current law, the salaries for these two positions are subject to caps in two different places: the Education Code and Article 9 of the general appropriations act. Removing the salary cap found in the Education Code would allow lawmakers in future sessions to change the superintendent salary range, subject to Article 9.

Allowing salary increases for these two superintendents would give the schools the flexibility to offer a salary competitive with current market average salaries. Superintendents at these schools are heads of state agencies that do vital statewide work and employ hundreds of people. Removing this salary cap would bring their salaries into parity with other state agency heads and allow these agencies to attract more talented applicants.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:** No concerns identified.