

- SUBJECT:** Providing student access to public school instructional materials
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- 1 absent — M. González
- WITNESSES:** For — (Registered, but did not testify: Betsy Singleton, League of Women Voters of Texas; Ted Raab, Texas American Federation of Teachers (Texas AFT); Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code 26.006(c) allows parents to request that the school district or open-enrollment charter school their student attends allow the student to take home any instructional materials used by the student.
- Concerns have been raised regarding a lack of reliable access to technology for certain students that could prohibit them from being able to access certain instructional materials at home.
- DIGEST:** HB 391 would require a school district or open-enrollment charter school to provide instructional materials in printed book format to students who did not have reliable access to technology at home and whose parents made a request to allow the student to take home instructional materials.
- A district or charter school would be required to document each denied parental request, including the reason the request was denied, and submit

it to the Texas Education Agency (TEA) no later than 30 days after the request was received. TEA would report annually to the Legislature the number of and reasons for the denials.

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.