

TAGT Legislative Recap

Dianne Hughes, CAE

Legislation that passed through the 80th Legislative Session has been signed by the governor or vetoed or passed due to the 20 days post adjournment period with no veto. Actually, 54 bills were vetoed by the governor. Bills on education that were vetoed were specific to Higher Education with the exception of Representative Rose's bill authorizing stipends to nationally certified classroom teachers under the educator excellence awards program. The governor did activate his authority to use a line item veto for HB 1, the Appropriations Bill. The only education area he vetoed in HB 1 was, again, tied to Higher Education.

To recap, the House filed 4140 bills and passed 955 while the Senate filed 2058 with 526 passed. There also were 108 House Joint Resolutions with 10 that passed and 68 Senate Joint Resolutions, which 7 passed. Overall, the number of bills filed and passed for this session increased over the 2005 session. If you look at the governor's proclamation of his line item vetoes to the Appropriations Bill, you get some insight of his perspective of duplication of efforts and unjustified results for dollars allocated.

Go to: www.governor.state.tx.us/divisions/press/proclamations/proclamation.2007-06-15

Previous Legislative Updates indicated that TAGT was tracking 193 education bills and it looks like 23 of those passed and another got merged into SB1031, Shapiro's end-of-course testing bill. Some of the bills passed could have positive outcomes for high potential students but all remains to be seen with TEA rules and interpretations and local district implementation. Education bills from the tracking report that passed include:

HB 208	Flores Lucio	Relating to the eligibility of students enrolled in joint credit or concurrent enrollment programs for extracurricular activities and University Interscholastic League competitions.
HB 1287	Chisum	Related to public school elective courses in the history and literature of the Old and New Testaments eras.
HB 1748	Morrison Shapiro	Relating to the administration of Texas governor's schools.
HB 1844	Howard, Charlie Janek	Relating to the administration of certain tests to home-schooled students by school districts.
HB 2237	Eissler Shapiro	Relating to high school success and college readiness in public schools.
HB 2399	Delisi Shapiro	Relating to teacher retention demonstration projects in public schools.

HB 2503	Eissler Williams	Relating to a technology literacy assessment instrument to be administered to certain public school students.
HB 2504	Eissler Shapiro	Relating to an intensive mathematics and algebra intervention program in public schools.
HB 2532	Patrick, Diane Shapiro	Relating to the expulsion and placement in alternative settings of public school students who engage in conduct constituting certain felonies.
HB 2563	Hancock Van de Putte	Relating to the powers and duties of the boards of trustees and superintendents of independent school districts and of regional education service centers.
HB 2814	Eissler Van de Putte	Relating to a language immersion pilot project in certain school districts.
HB 2864	Chisum Shapiro	Relating to a pilot program to provide supplemental technology-based instruction to students in rural school districts.
HB 3259	Branch Shapiro	Relating to the administration of international assessment instruments to certain public school students.
HB 3485	King, Susan Shapiro	Relating to career and technology education.
HB 3678	Howard, Charlie Williams	Relating to voluntary student-initiated expression of religious viewpoints in public schools.
HB 3851	Morrison Shapiro	Relating to the admission of high school and community college transfer students to institutions of higher education.
SB 135	Wentworth Eissler	Relating to the ability of public school employees to communicate with members of a school district board of trustees.
SB 282	Gallegos Dutton	Relating to notice regarding the availability of programs under which a student may earn college credit in public schools.
SB 389	Shapiro McCall	Relating to the capacity of the permanent school fund bond guarantee program.
SB 530	Nelson Eissler	Relating to physical activity requirements and physical fitness assessment for certain public school students.

SB 1031	Shapiro Eissler	Relating to the administration of certain assessment instruments in public schools.
SB 1517	Janek Hochberg	Relating to an exemption for students enrolled in certain advanced courses from the requirement that a student be suspended from participation in extracurricular activities for receiving an unsatisfactory grade.
SB 1788	Shapiro Madden	Relating to the creation and operation of a state virtual school network to provide education to students through electronic means.