

- SUBJECT:** Establishing requirements for open meetings of charter schools
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 13 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Mark Terry, Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Colby Nichols, Fast Growth School Coalition; Kelley Shannon, Freedom of Information Foundation of Texas; Staci Weaver, Legacy Preparatory Charter Academy; Bob Popinski, Raise Your Hand Texas; Grover Campbell and Jayme Mathias, Texas Association of School Boards; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Mike Hodges, Texas Press Association; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association; Patty Quinzi, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Dusty Harshman)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify:* John Armbrust, Austin Achieve; Ginny Janak, CLEAR Public Charter School; Hannah LaPorte, IDEA Public Schools; Kathleen Zimmermann, Nyos Charter School; Pablo Barrera and Thomas Sage, Texas Charter School Association; and six individuals)
- On — Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency; Christine Nishimura, Texas Charter Schools Association (*Registered, but did not testify:* Heather Mauze, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code sec. 551.128 requires certain entities, such as elected school district boards of trustees with student enrollments of 10,000 or

more, to make a video and audio recording of each regularly scheduled open meeting that is not a work session or a special called meeting and each open meeting that is a work session or special meeting if the board of trustees votes on any matter or allows public comment or testimony. An archived copy of the video and audio recording must be made available on the internet. Sec. 12.1051 applies requirements regarding open meetings or availability of information that apply to a school district to the governing body of a charter holder and the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school.

Interested parties have noted that meetings of open-enrollment charter school governing bodies could take place in an area far from the charter school campus location, which may make attendance difficult, and that additional steps should be taken to ensure transparency.

DIGEST:

CSHB 570 would require the governing body of a charter holder and the governing body of an open-enrollment charter school to hold each open meeting within the area served by the school. The governing body would be required to broadcast the open meeting over the internet if the school included campuses that were located in noncontiguous municipalities.

The bill would apply only to an open meeting held on or after the effective date of the bill.

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.