

1-1 By: Paxton S.B. No. 2244  
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2019; March 21, 2019, read  
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 11, 2019,  
1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0;  
1-5 April 11, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Taylor	X		
1-9	Lucio	X		
1-10	Bettencourt	X		
1-11	Campbell	X		
1-12	Fallon	X		
1-13	Hall	X		
1-14	Hughes	X		
1-15	Paxton	X		
1-16	Powell	X		
1-17	Watson	X		
1-18	West	X		

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the state virtual school network and a study on digital  
1-22 learning.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 26.0031(c), Education Code, is amended  
1-25 to read as follows:

1-26 (c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may  
1-27 deny a request to enroll a student in an electronic course if:

1-28 (1) a student attempts to enroll in a course load that  
1-29 is inconsistent with the student's high school graduation plan or  
1-30 requirements for college admission or earning an industry  
1-31 certification; or

1-32 (2) the student requests permission to enroll in an  
1-33 electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the  
1-34 enrollment period established by the school district or  
1-35 open-enrollment charter school providing the course[~~+~~

1-36 [~~(3) the district or school offers a substantially  
1-37 similar course~~].

1-38 SECTION 2. Section 30A.153(a), Education Code, is amended  
1-39 to read as follows:

1-40 (a) A [~~Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection  
1-41 (a-1), a~~] school district or open-enrollment charter school in  
1-42 which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42  
1-43 or in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section  
1-44 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered  
1-45 through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the  
1-46 district or school is entitled to funding for the student's  
1-47 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,  
1-48 provided that the student successfully completes the electronic  
1-49 course.

1-50 SECTION 3. Section 30A.155(a), Education Code, is amended  
1-51 to read as follows:

1-52 (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may  
1-53 charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided  
1-54 through the state virtual school network to a student who resides in  
1-55 this state and[~~+~~

1-56 [~~(1)~~] is enrolled in a school district or  
1-57 open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with a course  
1-58 load greater than that normally taken by students in the equivalent  
1-59 grade level in other school districts or open-enrollment charter  
1-60 schools[~~+~~

1-61 [~~(2) elects to enroll in an electronic course provided~~

2-1 ~~through the network for which the school district or~~  
2-2 ~~open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled as~~  
2-3 ~~a full-time student declines to pay the cost, as authorized by~~  
2-4 ~~Section 26.0031(c-1)].~~

2-5 SECTION 4. Sections 26.0031(c-1) and 30A.153(a-1),  
2-6 Education Code, are repealed.

2-7 SECTION 5. (a) The Texas Education Agency shall conduct a  
2-8 study regarding the effectiveness of digital learning in public  
2-9 schools. The study must include:

2-10 (1) methods of providing digital learning to students  
2-11 in kindergarten through 12th grade; and

2-12 (2) recommendations regarding the establishment of  
2-13 partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment charter  
2-14 schools and institutions of higher education and other public and  
2-15 private entities to provide digital learning options.

2-16 (b) Not later than September 1, 2020, the Texas Education  
2-17 Agency shall submit to the commissioner of education and each  
2-18 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
2-19 public education a report that includes:

2-20 (1) the results of the study conducted under this  
2-21 section; and

2-22 (2) recommendations to improve digital learning,  
2-23 including virtual learning under Chapter 30A, Education Code.

2-24 (c) Based on the results of the study and the report  
2-25 prepared under this section, the commissioner of education shall  
2-26 establish procedures to increase:

2-27 (1) digital learning by students and participation in  
2-28 the virtual school network; and

2-29 (2) participation by school districts and  
2-30 open-enrollment charter schools in establishing partnerships with  
2-31 institutions of higher education and other public and private  
2-32 entities.

2-33 (d) This section expires January 1, 2021.

2-34 SECTION 6. This Act applies beginning with the 2019-2020  
2-35 school year.

2-36 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-37 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-38 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-39 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-40 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

2-41 \* \* \* \* \*