

1-1 By: King of Hemphill, Bell of Kaufman, Guillen H.B. No. 3643  
 1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Taylor)  
 1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;  
 1-4 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on  
 1-5 Education; May 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-6 Yeas 11, Nays 0; May 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			

1-20 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-21 AN ACT

1-22 relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Virtual  
 1-23 Education.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Chapter 48, Education Code, is amended by adding  
 1-26 Subchapter I to read as follows:

1-27 SUBCHAPTER I. TEXAS COMMISSION ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION

1-28 Sec. 48.401. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission"  
 1-29 means the Texas Commission on Virtual Education.

1-30 Sec. 48.402. TEXAS COMMISSION ON VIRTUAL EDUCATION. (a)  
 1-31 The commission is established to develop and make recommendations  
 1-32 regarding the delivery of virtual education in the public school  
 1-33 system and state funding for virtual education under the Foundation  
 1-34 School Program.

1-35 (b) The commission consists of 13 members appointed as  
 1-36 follows:

- 1-37 (1) four members appointed by the governor;
- 1-38 (2) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- 1-39 (3) four members appointed by the speaker of the house  
 1-40 of representatives; and

1-41 (4) a member of the State Board of Education, as  
 1-42 designated by the chair of that board.

1-43 (c) The members appointed by the governor must have an  
 1-44 interest in public education and include at least:

- 1-45 (1) one current or retired classroom teacher with at  
 1-46 least 10 years of teaching experience;
- 1-47 (2) one member of the business community; and
- 1-48 (3) one member of the civic community.

1-49 (d) The appointments made by the lieutenant governor and the  
 1-50 speaker of the house of representatives must each consist of:

- 1-51 (1) three members of the applicable legislative  
 1-52 chamber; and
- 1-53 (2) an administrator in the public school system or an  
 1-54 elected member of the board of trustees of a school district.

1-55 (e) In making appointments under Subsections (b)(1), (2),  
 1-56 and (3), the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the  
 1-57 house of representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the  
 1-58 membership of the commission reflects, to the extent possible, the  
 1-59 ethnic and geographic diversity of this state.

1-60 Sec. 48.403. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
 1-61 designate the presiding officer of the commission.

2-1 Sec. 48.404. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
2-2 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
2-3 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
2-4 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

2-5 Sec. 48.405. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. (a) The  
2-6 agency shall provide administrative support for the commission.

2-7 (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
2-8 of the commission shall be provided by legislative appropriation  
2-9 made to the agency for that purpose.

2-10 Sec. 48.406. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall  
2-11 develop recommendations to address issues related to the delivery  
2-12 of and funding for virtual education, including alternative  
2-13 instructional delivery methods and alternative methods of funding.

2-14 (b) The commission may establish one or more working groups  
2-15 composed of not more than five members of the commission to study,  
2-16 discuss, and address specific policy issues and recommendations to  
2-17 refer to the commission for consideration.

2-18 Sec. 48.407. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2022, the  
2-19 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and  
2-20 the legislature that contains commission recommendations for  
2-21 legislative action to improve the implementation of virtual  
2-22 education.

2-23 Sec. 48.408. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)  
2-24 The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its  
2-25 duties under this subchapter.

2-26 (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,  
2-27 Government Code.

2-28 Sec. 48.409. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF  
2-29 SUBCHAPTER. The commission is abolished and this subchapter expires  
2-30 January 1, 2023.

2-31 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022  
2-32 school year.

2-33 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2-34 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2-35 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2-36 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
2-37 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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