



## Press Conference on HB 21

85<sup>th</sup> Legislature – Regular Session

March 6, 2017

This afternoon Dan Huberty, chairman of the House Public Education Committee, addressed the press concerning HB 21, a school finance bill which he filed today. Representative Huberty introduced the bill calling it a “bipartisan effort,” which “reflects months of discussion,” that he claims will “work better for taxpayers and schools” by giving them more resources, while reducing the need to raise property taxes. He explained that the bill would infuse \$1.6 billion of new money into the school system. Although the bill does not mention an increase to the basic allotment, Representative Huberty named such an increase as the bill’s principal action--the bill cuts funding and eliminates certain appropriations to provide this increase in the basic allotment (from \$5,140 to \$5,350). This money would help address difficulties that school districts and policy firms named at last week’s public education committee meeting.

During the conference, Chairman Huberty also invited Representative Zerwas to speak to address the Appropriations Committee’s part in the bill, as well as Representative Turner (a joint author on the bill), Kathleen Zimmermann (Executive Director of Not Your Ordinary School Charter Schools), and Kyle Lynch (Superintendent of Canadian ISD) to offer their support of the bill.

Chairman Huberty ended the conference by informing school districts that runs that reflect the financial impact of the bill is on the House Public Education Committee webpage. A link to the runs can be found here:

<http://www.house.state.tx.us/media/pdf/committees/H.B.21-Model-Runs-2019.pdf>

The House Public Education Committee will meet tomorrow for a public hearing on school finance bills, including HB 21 at E2.036 at noon or upon adjournment.

We will have more analysis on the bill in the coming days.