

# BILL ANALYSIS: HOUSE BILL 5019

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## **BILL SUMMARY**

House Bill 5019 (2025) proposes several good government reforms to the manner in which an independent school district (ISD) interact with certain organizations. Key changes include prohibiting school districts from contracting with organizations involved in electioneering, political advocacy, or issue advocacy; restricting payroll deductions for professional organization dues, limiting such deductions to entities established or managed by governmental bodies; and mandating that training provided to school employees be approved by the Texas Education Agency (TEA), ensuring that content is not political or activist in nature. The proposed changes aim to maintain the neutrality of educational institutions and prevent the use of public funds for political purposes, which has recently become a source of great concern.

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

HB 5019 requires training providers to obtain approval from the TEA, prohibits the approval of training involving political advocacy, and establishes an appeal process for denials. It also restricts continuing education credits from including political activities, defines “professional organization” for school district employees, and revises payroll deductions for professional dues with specific procedures for notification and continuation. Finally, the bill mandates TEA contracts for resources benefiting school employees, prohibits districts from deducting dues for non-governmental organizations, and regulates purchases made through cooperatives linked to political subdivisions.

### ***Approval of Training Providers***

The bill mandates that any person, entity, or provider offering training under Section 11.159 of the Education Code must obtain approval from the TEA. This approval encompasses aspects relating to the training’s content, timing, delivery method, and location. Further, the TEA is prohibited from approving training that occurs at professional organization meetings, is provided by associations representing political subdivisions, or involves electioneering, political, or issue advocacy. The TEA is also directed to establish an appeal process under this section.

### ***Restrictions on Continuing Education Credits***

The bill introduces Section 21.0544 of the Education Code, stipulating that training counted towards continuing education cannot include electioneering, political advocacy, or issue advocacy, nor can it be associated with events featuring such activities.

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### ***Definitions Related to Employee Organizations***

Section 22.0001 of the Education Code is amended to define “Professional organization” as any organization, association, union, or advocacy group in which school district employees participate. These organizations exist, in whole or in part, to address grievances, labor disputes, or employment conditions affecting school district employees, and their members pay fees or dues.

### ***Modification of Payroll Deductions***

The bill revises Section 22.001 of the Education Code concerning salary deductions for professional dues. It allows school district employees to have amounts deducted from their salaries for fees to entities providing services to school employees, including classroom teachers. The process requires a signed written request from the employee, specifying the entity and the number of pay periods for the deductions. The district is responsible for notifying the employee of the number of pay periods annually from which deductions will be made. Additionally, for employees with existing payroll deductions during the 2025–2026 school year, the district is required to continue deductions for the 2026–2027 school year unless the employee provides written notice to discontinue.

### ***Provision of Resources for School Employees***

Section 22.0011 is added to the Education Code and mandates that the TEA contracts with third parties to provide services for school employees, including assistance in understanding their rights, duties, and benefits, as well as liability insurance to protect against third-party claims arising from conduct during the course of duties. The contracts must prohibit the use of funds for electioneering, political advertising, or activities addressing issues regarding public schools. The bill also clarifies that these provisions do not interfere with employees’ First Amendment rights, and that third parties may charge fees for participation. Furthermore, school districts are required to share information with the third-party providers.

### ***Prohibition on Collection of Certain Dues***

Section 22.0012 is added to the Education Code, which prohibits school districts from deducting or withholding dues or membership fees for professional organizations or associations not established or managed by a governmental entity.

### ***Regulation of Purchasing Cooperatives***

The bill adds Section 44.0314 of the Education Code, which defines “prohibited organizations” as non-profit entities representing political subdivisions and employing or contracting with individuals required to register as lobbyists. The TEA is tasked with maintaining and publishing a list of such organizations. Purchases made through purchasing cooperatives overseen by prohibited organizations are deemed violations, and school districts are restricted from investing funds in investment pools managed by these organizations. School districts must develop and publish plans to transfer assets from such investment pools, including timelines and responsibilities, with plans to be completed by September 1, 2026.

## **ADDITIONAL RESOURCES**

1. [A Short Guide to the Prohibition Against Using School District Resources for Political Advertising in Connection with an Election, Texas Ethics Commission](#)
2. [Thumb on the Scale: The Growing Alarm over ISD Electioneering and What to Do About It, Texas Public Policy Foundation](#)
3. [Government Collection of Union Dues, Texas Public Policy Foundation](#)
4. [The Heist: An Inside Look at Education Spending in Texas, Texas Public Policy Foundation](#)

## **REFERENCES**

HB 5019. Introduced. 89th Texas Legislature. Regular. (2025). <https://capitol.texas.gov/BillLookup/History.aspx?LegSess=89R&Bill=HB5019>

## ABOUT THE AUTHORS



**James Quintero** is the policy director for the Texas Public Policy Foundation's Taxpayer Protection Project. He joined the Foundation in 2008 and his work has generally focused on local government matters, especially where it involves taxes, spending, and debt. His work has been featured in the *New York Times*, *Forbes*, *Fox News*, *Breitbart*, and more.

Quintero received a B.A. from the University of Texas at Austin and an M.P.A. from Texas State University. He is currently seeking a Ph.D. in public policy from Liberty University. In 2022, he was appointed to serve a three-year term on the Commission for Lawyer Discipline.



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