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**CHARLES PERRY**  
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## **PERRY PASSES SIGNIFICANT EDUCATION REFORM PACKAGE**

LUBBOCK, TX – Late last night, the Texas State Senate passed HB 18 authored by Rep. Jimmie Don Aycock (R – Killeen) and sponsored by Senator Charles Perry (R – Lubbock).

HB 18 seeks to give students the relevant guidance necessary for them to make the most out of the opportunities in high school by putting in place training academies for high school counselors.

The senate version of this bill increases access to college courses in high school and encourages career and college exploration in middle school. In line with this goal, Perry also added language to expand opportunities for students to receive college credit and certifications for workforce development and career technology courses taken in high school.

Additionally, the bill will improve relations between school districts and institutions of higher education and to collect relevant data dealing with college readiness.

“Last Session, I was proud to help pass House Bill 5, the most sweeping education reform in recent memory,” said Senator Charles Perry. “I was proud to work with Chairman Aycock to produce legislation to build upon that success and ensure that our public education system produces results that lead to college and career success.”

“The future of Texas depends on us – reducing the dropout rate, making sure every student is ready for a career or college,” said Lt. Governor Dan Patrick at a press conference earlier this Session on his education package. “Together we are going to lead the senate and lead the state in continuing to reform education so that every student has the opportunity to live the Texas and American Dream.”

“Texas is on the right path by moving away from the one-size-fits-all standards of the past,” continued Senator Perry. “It is my hope that this bill will give our local school districts the tools they need to ensure all students graduating high school have a path -- be it towards a vocation or college.”

HB 18 will go back to the House of Representatives where the chamber will either concur on the senate changes or request a conference committee. If signed by the governor, this legislation will become law on September 1, 2015.

If you have any questions or comments about this bill or any of Senator Perry’s legislative agenda, please feel free to contact our office at 512-463-0128 or Travis.McCormick@senate.state.tx.us.

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