

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE January 26, 2017 **CONTACT: CAITY JACKSON** (972) 762-8046

Sen. Hancock Online Learning Legislation Aims to Help Military Families

SB 620, filed today, expands access to Texas Virtual School Network

AUSTIN - Senator Kelly Hancock (R-North Richland Hills) today filed Senate Bill 620 to remove certain restrictions on enrollment in the Texas Virtual School Network (TxVSN).

Under current statute, students may only enroll in TxVSN if they attended a brick and mortar Texas public school the prior academic year. SB 620 removes that limitation.

"All Texas families deserve educational opportunity, choice, and flexibility," said Senator Hancock. "We're a welcoming state and should make sure our online learning network is designed with that in mind.

"In particular, many military families have to be prepared to relocate at a moment's notice. These families need an education system that accommodates the demands of military life. Simply put, this bill allows the children of our American heroes full access to the Texas Virtual School Network the moment they arrive in the Lone Star State."

TxVSN is an education option provided by the Texas Education Agency (TEA). For more information about this online learning network, including course listings and enrollment instructions, visit <u>txvsn.org</u>.

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Sen. Hancock represents <u>District 9</u>, which includes portions of Dallas and Tarrant Counties. He currently serves as Chairman of the Texas Senate Committee on Business & Commerce. Before running for the Texas Legislature, Sen. Hancock spent 13 years on the Birdville ISD School Board.