

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 2681

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public school elective courses providing academic study of the Bible offered to certain students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Section 28.011, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (f) and adding Subsection (g-1) to read as follows:

(a) A school district may offer to students in grade six [~~nine~~] or above:

(1) an elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its impact; or

(2) an elective course that combines the courses described by Subdivision (1).

(f) A teacher of a course offered under this section must hold a certificate [~~minimum of a High School Composite Certification~~] in language arts, social studies, or history that qualifies the teacher to teach at the grade level at which the course is offered with, where practical, a minor in religion or biblical studies. A teacher selected to teach a course under this section shall successfully complete staff development training outlined in Section 21.459. A course under this section may [~~only~~] be taught only by a teacher who has successfully completed training under Section 21.459.

1 (g-1) A course offered under this section to students in
2 grade six, seven, or eight may be considered as a social studies
3 course for purposes of complying with the required curriculum under
4 Section 28.002.

5 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
6 school year.

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