

By: Creighton

S.B. No. 1786

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to public higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.0095(c), (e), and (f), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(c) A student is eligible to enroll at no cost in a dual credit course under the program if the student:

(1) is enrolled:

(A) in a grade level from 9 through 12 ~~[high school]~~ in a school district or charter school; and

(B) in a dual credit course at a participating institution of higher education; and

(2) was educationally disadvantaged at any time during:

(A) the school year in which the student enrolls in the dual credit course described by Subdivision (1)(B); or

(B) the four school years preceding the student's enrollment in the dual credit course described by Subdivision (1)(B).

(e) Each school district or charter school shall:

(1) on the ~~[a high school student's]~~ enrollment of a student in a grade level from 9 through 12 in a dual credit course, determine whether the student meets the criteria for the program under Subsection (c)(2); and

(2) notify the institution of higher education that offers the dual credit course in which the student is enrolled of the district's or school's determination under Subdivision (1).

(f) A school district or charter school may make the determination under Subsection (e)(1) based on the district's or school's records, the agency's records, or any other method authorized by commissioner or coordinating board rule. If the district or school bases the determination on a method other than the agency's records, the district or school shall report the method used and the data on which the method is based to the agency for purposes of verification. The agency shall make available to school districts and charter schools the data necessary for making the determination required under Subsection (e)(1).

SECTION 2. Subchapter D, Chapter 54, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 54.215 to read as follows:

Sec. 54.215. FINANCIAL AID FOR SWIFT TRANSFER (FAST) PROGRAM. The governing board of an institution of higher education participating in the Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program under Section 28.0095 shall exempt from the payment of tuition and required fees for a dual credit course, as defined by that section, a student who is eligible for the program.

SECTION 3. Section 61.003(2), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2) "Public junior college" means any junior college associated with a junior college district described by Subchapter J, Chapter 130 ~~[listed as a public junior college in accordance with Section 61.063]~~.

SECTION 4. Subchapter B, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0275 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0275. ADOPTION BY REFERENCE. The board may adopt by reference a manual or policy document as a rule.

SECTION 5. Section 130A.005, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) The coordinating board may use the emergency rulemaking procedures established under Section 2001.034, Government Code, to adopt rules necessary to align the funding formulas under this chapter with appropriations or other legislative action. The coordinating board is not required to make the finding described by Section 2001.034(a), Government Code, to adopt rules under this subsection.

SECTION 6. Section 130A.101(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The measurable outcomes considered for purposes of performance tier funding are:

(1) the number of credentials of value awarded, as determined by the coordinating board based on analyses of wages and costs associated with the credential, including degrees, certificates, and other credentials from credit and non-credit programs that equip students for continued learning and greater earnings in the state economy, with an additional weight for placement of students who earn that credential in a high-demand occupation, as defined by coordinating board rule, or an appropriate proxy determined by the coordinating board based on available data;

1           (2) the number of students who earn at least 15  
2 semester credit hours or the equivalent at the junior college  
3 district and:

4                   (A) subsequently transfer to:

5                         (i) a general academic teaching  
6 institution, as that term is defined by Section 61.003; or

7                         (ii) a private or independent institution  
8 of higher education, as that term is defined by Section 61.003, that  
9 offers four-year degree programs; or

10                   (B) are enrolled in a structured co-enrollment  
11 program, as authorized by coordinating board rule; and

12           (3) the number of students who complete a sequence of  
13 at least 15 semester credit hours or the equivalent for dual credit  
14 or dual enrollment courses, as defined by coordinating board rule,  
15 that apply toward academic or workforce program requirements at the  
16 postsecondary level.

17         SECTION 7. Section 28.0095, Education Code, as amended by  
18 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

19         SECTION 8. Section 54.215, Education Code, as added by this  
20 Act, applies beginning with tuition and required fees charged for  
21 the 2025 fall semester. Tuition and required fees charged for an  
22 academic period before that semester are governed by the law in  
23 effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the  
24 former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

25         SECTION 9. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of this  
26 section, this Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of  
27 two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by

S.B. No. 1786

1 Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not  
2 receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes  
3 effect September 1, 2025.

4 (b) Section 130A.101(c), Education Code, as amended by this  
5 Act, takes effect September 1, 2025.