

1-1 By: Shapiro S.B. No. 1146
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 8, 2005; March 21, 2005, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Education; April 13, 2005,
1-4 reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
1-5 April 13, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to an early college education program to provide at-risk
1-9 and other students accelerated high school graduation and college
1-10 credit.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 29.908, Education Code, is amended to
1-13 read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 29.908. EARLY [MIDDLE] COLLEGE EDUCATION [PILOT]
1-15 PROGRAM. (a) The commissioner shall establish and administer an
1-16 early [a middle] college education [pilot] program for students who
1-17 are at risk of dropping out of school or who wish to accelerate
1-18 completion of the high school program [completion]. For purposes
1-19 of this subsection [section], "student at risk of dropping out of
1-20 school" has the meaning assigned by Section 29.081.

1-21 (b) The program must:

1-22 (1) provide for a course of study that enables a
1-23 participating student to combine high school courses and
1-24 college-level courses during grade levels 9 through [11 and] 12;

1-25 (2) allow a participating student to complete high
1-26 school and, on or before the fifth anniversary of the date of the
1-27 student's first day of high school, receive [at least] a high school
1-28 diploma and either:

1-29 (A) an associate degree; or

1-30 (B) at least 60 semester credit hours toward a
1-31 baccalaureate degree [at the time of graduation];

1-32 (3) include articulation agreements [under Subchapter
1-33 T, Chapter 61,] with colleges, universities, and technical schools
1-34 in this state to provide a participating student access to
1-35 postsecondary educational and training opportunities at a [on the
1-36 campus of the] college, university, or technical school; and

1-37 (4) provide a participating student flexibility in
1-38 class scheduling and academic mentoring.

1-39 (b-1) Each articulation agreement under Subsection (b)(3)
1-40 must address:

1-41 (1) curriculum alignment;

1-42 (2) instructional materials;

1-43 (3) the instructional calendar;

1-44 (4) courses of study;

1-45 (5) eligibility of students for higher education
1-46 financial assistance;

1-47 (6) student enrollment and attendance;

1-48 (7) grading periods and policies; and

1-49 (8) administration of statewide assessment
1-50 instruments under Subchapter B, Chapter 39.

1-51 (b-2) The P-16 Council established under Section 61.077
1-52 shall provide guidance in case of any conflict that arises between
1-53 parties to an articulation agreement under Subsection (b)(3).

1-54 (c) A student participating in the program is entitled to
1-55 the benefits of the Foundation School Program in proportion to the
1-56 amount of time spent by the student on high school courses, in
1-57 accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner, while completing
1-58 the course of study established by the applicable articulation
1-59 agreement under Subsection (b)(3). The commissioner may accept
1-60 gifts, grants, and donations from any source, including private and
1-61 nonprofit organizations, to pay any costs of the program not
1-62 covered by the student's Foundation School Program benefits.

1-63 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
1-64 administer the program. The rules may provide for giving

2-1 preference in receiving program benefits to a student who is in the
2-2 first generation of the student's family to attend college and may
2-3 establish other distinctions or criteria based on student need.
2-4 The commissioner shall consult the Texas Higher Education
2-5 Coordinating Board in [~~establishing and~~] administering the
2-6 program. The P-16 Council may make recommendations, including
2-7 recommendations for rules, concerning administration of the
2-8 program.

2-9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-10 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-11 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-12 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-13 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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