

By: Swinford

H.B. No. 2812

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the curriculum, funding, promotion, and economic impact of career and technology education in public educational institutions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.00221 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.00221. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION CURRICULUM EVALUATION COMMITTEE. (a) The Career and Technology Education Curriculum Evaluation Committee is composed of:

(1) the commissioner of education;

(2) the commissioner of higher education;

(3) the comptroller;

(4) the executive director of the Texas Workforce Commission; and

(5) an employee of the agency's career and technology education unit, appointed by the commissioner of education.

(b) The Career and Technology Education Curriculum Evaluation Committee shall:

(1) consult with and advise the State Board of Education concerning a rigorous career and technology education curriculum;

(2) determine the courses for each subject of the foundation curriculum that are required to be completed for the

1 career and technology education curriculum recommended and
2 advanced high school programs under Section 28.025(b-1)(1)(B)(ii);

3 (3) determine dual credit courses for career and
4 technology students, as defined by Section 28.009, that satisfy
5 requirements under Sections 28.009(a)(2) and
6 28.025(b-1)(1)(B)(ii); and

7 (4) designate, in accordance with Section
8 39.025(a-2), the licenses, certificates, and other credentials
9 earned by students that are considered to be the equivalent of
10 satisfactory performance on end-of-course assessment instruments.

11 (c) The commissioner of education and the commissioner of
12 higher education serve as co-chairs of the committee.

13 (d) The committee shall meet at the call of the co-chairs.

14 (e) From funds appropriated to the committee, a member of
15 the committee is entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary
16 expenses incurred in performing committee duties.

17 (f) Employees of the agency's career and technology
18 education unit shall serve as the staff of the committee.

19 SECTION 2. Section 28.009(b), Education Code, is amended to
20 read as follows:

21 (b) The agency shall coordinate with the Texas Higher
22 Education Coordinating Board as necessary in administering this
23 section. The agency shall coordinate with the Career and
24 Technology Education Curriculum Evaluation Committee established
25 under Section 28.00221 in designating dual credit courses under
26 this section.

27 SECTION 3. Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-2), Education Code,

1 are amended to read as follows:

2 (b-1) The State Board of Education by rule shall require
3 that:

4 (1) except as provided by Subsection (b-2), the
5 curriculum requirements for the recommended and advanced high
6 school programs under Subsection (a) include a requirement that
7 students successfully complete:

8 (A) four courses in each subject of the
9 foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1); or

10 (B) a career and technology education curriculum
11 that:

12 (i) provides, as determined by the board in
13 consultation with the Career and Technology Education Curriculum
14 Evaluation Committee established under Section 28.00221, a program
15 of rigorous, standards-based course work designed to prepare
16 students for obtaining a license, certificate, or other credential
17 required for employment in a field of business or industry; and

18 (ii) prescribes successful completion of
19 courses in subjects of the foundation curriculum under Section
20 28.002(a)(1), as determined by the Career and Technology Education
21 Curriculum Evaluation Committee; and

22 (2) one or more courses offered in the required
23 curriculum for the recommended and advanced high school programs
24 include a research writing component.

25 (b-2) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State
26 Board of Education shall allow a student to comply with the
27 curriculum requirements for a mathematics course under Subsection

1 (b-1)(1)(A) [~~(b-1)(1)~~] taken after the successful completion of an
2 Algebra II course or science course under Subsection (b-1)(1)(A)
3 [~~(b-1)(1)~~] taken after the successful completion of a physics
4 course by successfully completing an advanced career and technology
5 [~~technical~~] course designated by the State Board of Education as
6 containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content. A
7 student may use the option provided by this subsection for not more
8 than two courses.

9 SECTION 4. Section 28.0252(a), Education Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) The commissioner may develop a standard method of
12 computing a student's high school grade point average that provides
13 for additional weight to be given to each honors course, advanced
14 placement course, international baccalaureate course, or dual
15 credit course completed by a student. If the commissioner develops
16 the standard method under this subsection, the commissioner shall
17 provide for including in a student's high school grade point
18 average credit for each career and technology education course that
19 is:

- 20 (1) successfully completed by the student; and
21 (2) approved by the Career and Technology Education
22 Curriculum Evaluation Committee established under Section 28.00221
23 or the State Board of Education, as applicable.

24 SECTION 5. Section 39.025, Education Code, is amended by
25 adding Subsection (a-2) to read as follows:

26 (a-2) Notwithstanding Subsection (a) or any other provision
27 of this code, the Career and Technology Education Curriculum

1 Evaluation Committee established under Section 28.00221 shall
2 designate at least one license, certificate, or other credential
3 that, if earned by a student in connection with a particular course,
4 is considered to be for all practicable purposes, including for
5 purposes of earning a high school diploma, the equivalent of
6 satisfactory performance on the end-of-course assessment
7 instrument for that course. The committee also shall establish for
8 purposes of Subsection (a) the score a student will be considered to
9 have earned on the end-of-course assessment instrument for earning
10 a license, certificate, or other credential designated by the
11 committee. The committee may base the score in whole or in part on
12 the score the student earns on an examination required for the
13 license, certificate, or other credential. Earning a license,
14 certificate, or credential is not considered the equivalent of
15 answering particular questions on an end-of-course assessment
16 instrument for purposes of Section 51.3062.

17 SECTION 6. Subchapter H, Chapter 39, Education Code, is
18 amended by adding Section 39.186 to read as follows:

19 Sec. 39.186. REPORT ON EFFECT OF LAW AND RULES ON CAREER AND
20 TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION ENROLLMENT. Not later than December 1 of each
21 even-numbered year, the agency shall prepare and deliver to the
22 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of
23 representatives, each member of the legislature, and the clerks of
24 the standing committees of the senate and house of representatives
25 with primary jurisdiction over the public school system a report
26 concerning the extent to which, if any, this code or a rule adopted
27 under this code, including a standard method for computing a

1 student's grade point average adopted by the commissioner under
2 Section 28.0252, prevents or discourages a student from enrolling
3 in a career and technology education course.

4 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
5 amended by adding Section 61.0593 to read as follows:

6 Sec. 61.0593. INCENTIVE FUNDING FOR TECHNICAL EDUCATION
7 PROGRAMS. (a) Any funding appropriated or allocated for a public
8 junior college, public state college, or public technical institute
9 technical education program that is based on incentives, such as
10 higher funding amounts for improved student academic performance,
11 must include consideration of any economic benefit the program
12 provides to the state. That consideration must be based on a
13 cost-benefit analysis and determination by the board, on the basis
14 of that analysis, of whether the state will benefit economically
15 from investment in the program. In making a determination under
16 this subsection, the board shall consider to be an economic benefit
17 to the state a student's preparation, as a result of participation
18 in a college or institute's technical education program, to enter
19 the workforce, as measured by job placements of program
20 participants.

21 (b) If any incentive funding for a public junior college,
22 public state college, or public technical institute technical
23 education program is based on the program completion rates by
24 students, the board shall consider a student who withdraws from the
25 program for employment related to the program to have completed the
26 program.

27 SECTION 8. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 61.0663 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 61.0663. ECONOMIC IMPACT STUDY. (a) To assess the
3 economic benefits and preparation for employment provided by public
4 institutions of higher education, the board shall identify students
5 enrolled in the public education system and collect data on which
6 postsecondary program, if any, the students enroll in and the type
7 of employment the students obtain following completion of high
8 school or the program, as applicable.

9 (b) The board, in consultation with the Texas Education
10 Agency, the Texas Workforce Commission, and the comptroller, shall
11 use the education and employment data collected under Subsection
12 (a), and any additional relevant data, to assess the economic
13 impact of secondary and postsecondary training and education. The
14 information must be produced in a manner that:

15 (1) demonstrates patterns of postsecondary enrollment
16 and employment placement;

17 (2) provides an assessment of the economic benefits of
18 institutions of higher education and programs at those institutions
19 to students and the state; and

20 (3) provides an assessment of the economic benefit of
21 public education programs that prepare students who transition
22 directly to postsecondary employment.

23 (c) The information produced under this section must be
24 capable of electronic dissemination and made available to the
25 public in a format that assists students in making decisions
26 regarding education and career choices.

27 (d) This section does not authorize the disclosure of

1 student information that may not be disclosed under the Family
2 Educational Rights and Privacy Act of 1974 (20 U.S.C. Section
3 1232g). The board, in conjunction with the commissioner of
4 education, the comptroller, and the Texas Workforce Commission,
5 shall adopt rules to protect the confidentiality of student
6 information.

7 SECTION 9. Section 61.0762, Education Code, is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 Sec. 61.0762. PROGRAMS TO ENHANCE STUDENT SUCCESS. (a) To
10 implement the college readiness and success strategic action plan
11 adopted under Section 61.0761 and to enhance the success of
12 students at institutions of higher education, the board by rule
13 shall develop:

14 (1) summer higher education bridge programs in the
15 subject areas of mathematics, science, and English language arts;

16 (2) incentive programs for institutions of higher
17 education that implement research-based, innovative developmental
18 education initiatives;

19 (3) financial assistance programs for educationally
20 disadvantaged students, as defined by Section 5.001, who take
21 college entrance and college readiness assessment instruments;

22 (4) professional development programs for faculty of
23 institutions of higher education on college readiness standards and
24 the implications of such standards on instruction; and

25 (5) other programs as determined by the board that
26 support the participation and success goals in "Closing the Gaps,"
27 the state's master plan for higher education.

1 (b) As one of the programs adopted under Subsection (a)(5),
2 the board shall establish education resource centers to create
3 within school communities interest in and information concerning
4 attendance at institutions of higher education. Each center must
5 attempt to coordinate among students, parents, school counselors,
6 and institutions of higher education in providing access to
7 resources helpful in preparation for attendance at and admission to
8 institutions of higher education. One or more persons associated
9 with each center shall be trained and able to assist the families of
10 high school students complete the Free Application for Federal
11 Student Aid (FAFSA) form. Each center shall provide information
12 concerning career and technical education, including certification
13 and licensing requirements and available course and career options
14 and degree programs. A center under this subsection may be located
15 on a high school or middle school campus or at a site within a
16 community that is conveniently located to many students, such as a
17 public library or local workforce or community center, or may be a
18 mobile center that visits schools or other places where students
19 are likely to gather.

20 (c) The board shall conduct ongoing evaluations of programs
21 developed under Subsection (a) and any other programs developed to
22 provide information concerning postsecondary educational or
23 employment opportunities to determine the effectiveness of the
24 programs in meeting the goals of "Closing the Gaps," the state's
25 master plan for higher education.

26 (d) In conjunction with the comptroller, the board shall
27 develop an Internet website for the purpose of providing

1 information to the public about postsecondary educational and
2 employment opportunities. The website shall provide information in
3 English and Spanish concerning:

4 (1) career and technical education programs that
5 integrate academic, technical, and career skills that lead to a
6 license, certificate, or postsecondary degree;

7 (2) available employment opportunities and the
8 educational requirements needed for employment at entry and
9 advanced levels;

10 (3) which occupations are considered high-demand
11 under Section 29.186;

12 (4) the skills needed and the available avenues for
13 obtaining employment in a high-demand occupation; and

14 (5) how to obtain financial aid and what forms of
15 financial aid are available to students entering certain
16 occupations.

17 (e) For the purpose of developing the Internet website under
18 Subsection (d), the board may require the Texas Education Agency to
19 provide information on educational programs and outcomes and the
20 Texas Workforce Commission to provide information on workforce
21 programs and outcomes.

22 SECTION 10. Subtitle G, Title 3, Education Code, is amended
23 by adding Chapter 134 to read as follows:

24 CHAPTER 134. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT PROGRAMS

25 SUBCHAPTER A. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT PROGRAM

26 Sec. 134.001. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter, "public
27 junior college" and "public technical institute" have the meanings

1 assigned by Section 61.003.

2 Sec. 134.002. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) FUND. (a)
3 The comptroller shall establish and administer the Jobs and
4 Education for Texans (JET) fund as a dedicated account in the
5 general revenue fund.

6 (b) The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund:

7 (1) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for
8 the fund for purposes of this subchapter;

9 (2) interest earned on the investment of money in the
10 fund; and

11 (3) gifts, grants, and other donations received for
12 the fund.

13 Sec. 134.003. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) An advisory board of
14 education and workforce stakeholders is created to assist the
15 comptroller in administering this chapter.

16 (b) The advisory board is composed of seven members who
17 serve two-year terms and are appointed as follows:

18 (1) one member appointed by the governor;

19 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

20 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of
21 representatives;

22 (4) one member appointed by the Texas Higher Education
23 Coordinating Board;

24 (5) one member appointed by the Texas Workforce
25 Commission;

26 (6) one member of the public appointed by the
27 comptroller; and

1 (7) the comptroller, who serves as the chairperson.

2 (c) The advisory board shall meet at least once each quarter
3 to review received applications and recommend awarding grants under
4 this subchapter.

5 Sec. 134.004. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT
6 PROGRAM. The comptroller shall establish and administer the Jobs
7 and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to provide grants to
8 public junior colleges and public technical institutes that apply
9 to the advisory board in the manner prescribed by the advisory
10 board. The comptroller shall award the grants on the advice and
11 recommendations of the advisory board. Grants may be awarded under
12 this subchapter from the JET fund for the following purposes:

13 (1) to expand and support programs that meet the
14 requirements of Section 134.005 and that prepare low-income
15 students for careers in high-demand occupations;

16 (2) to defray the start-up costs associated with the
17 development of new career and technical education programs that
18 meet the requirements of Section 134.006; and

19 (3) to provide scholarships for students in career and
20 technical education programs who meet the requirements of Section
21 134.007.

22 Sec. 134.005. GRANTS FOR INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL
23 PROGRAMS. (a) The comptroller may award a grant for the
24 development of programs to prepare low-income students for careers
25 in high-demand occupations.

26 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
27 program must:

1 (1) provide assistance to those students in preparing
2 for, applying to, and enrolling in a public junior college or public
3 technical institute; and

4 (2) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory
5 board:

6 (A) above average completion of developmental
7 education among participating public junior college or public
8 technical institute students;

9 (B) above average persistence rates among
10 participating public junior college or public technical institute
11 students;

12 (C) above average certificate or degree
13 completion rates by participating students within a three-year
14 period compared to demographically comparable public junior
15 college and public technical institute students; and

16 (D) employment of participating students at an
17 average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than
18 the prevailing wage for the occupation entered.

19 (c) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
20 public junior college or public technical institute must provide
21 matching funds in accordance with rules adopted under Section
22 134.008. The matching funds may be obtained from any source
23 available to the college or institute, including in-kind
24 contributions, community or foundation grants, individual
25 contributions, and local governmental agency operating funds.

26 (d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a
27 manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into

1 consideration.

2 Sec. 134.006. FUNDING FOR CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION
3 PROGRAMS. (a) The comptroller may award a grant for the
4 development of new career and technical education courses or
5 programs at public junior colleges and public technical institutes.

6 (b) A grant received under this section may be used only:

7 (1) to support courses or programs that prepare
8 students for career employment in occupations that are identified
9 by local businesses as being in high demand;

10 (2) to finance initial costs of career and technical
11 education course or program development, including the costs of
12 constructing or renovating facilities, purchasing equipment, and
13 other expenses associated with the development of a new course; and

14 (3) to finance a career and technical education course
15 or program that leads to a license, certificate, or postsecondary
16 degree.

17 (c) In awarding a grant under this section, the comptroller
18 shall primarily consider the potential economic returns to the
19 state from the development of the career and technical education
20 course or program, and may consider whether the course or program is
21 part of a new, emerging industry or high-demand occupation.

22 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
23 public junior college or public technical institute must provide
24 matching funds in accordance with rules adopted under Section
25 134.008. The matching funds may be obtained from any source
26 available to the college, including in-kind contributions,
27 industry consortia, community or foundation grants, individual

1 contributions, and local governmental agency operating funds.

2 Sec. 134.007. SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) The comptroller may award
3 a scholarship to a public junior college or public technical
4 institute student.

5 (b) To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this
6 section, a student must:

7 (1) demonstrate financial need; and

8 (2) be enrolled in a training program for a
9 high-demand occupation, as determined by the comptroller on the
10 recommendation of the advisory board.

11 Sec. 134.008. RULES. The comptroller shall adopt rules as
12 necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

13 SECTION 11. Not later than January 1, 2010, the Career and
14 Technology Education Curriculum Evaluation Committee established
15 under Section 28.00221, Education Code, as added by this Act shall:

16 (1) determine courses for purposes of Section
17 28.025(b-1)(1)(B)(ii), Education Code, as added by this Act;

18 (2) determine dual credit courses that may be used to
19 satisfy the career and technology education curriculum recommended
20 and advanced high school program and institution of higher
21 education credit requirements, as required by Section
22 28.00221(b)(3), Education Code, as added by this Act; and

23 (3) designate the licenses, certificates, and other
24 credentials considered to be the equivalent of satisfactory
25 performance on end-of-course assessment instruments, as required
26 by Section 39.025(a-2), Education Code, as added by this Act.

27 SECTION 12. Not later than March 1, 2010, the State Board of

1 Education shall adopt rules as required by Section 28.025(b-1),
2 Education Code, as amended by this Act. The rules shall provide
3 that the curriculum requirements for the recommended and advanced
4 high school programs adopted under that subsection apply to a
5 student regardless of the school year in which the student entered
6 the ninth grade.

7 SECTION 13. Not later than January 1, 2010, the comptroller
8 of public accounts shall begin studying the feasibility of:

9 (1) basing a portion of all public postsecondary
10 technical training program funding on the economic benefit of the
11 program to the state; and

12 (2) for purposes of Subdivision (1) of this section,
13 estimating the amount of any additional tax revenue generated by
14 employers that is a result of the ability of public junior colleges,
15 public state colleges, or public technical institutes, as those
16 terms are defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, to prepare
17 students for employment fields for which there is employer demand.

18 SECTION 14. Section 61.0593, Education Code, as added by
19 this Act, applies to incentive funding for public institutions of
20 higher education beginning with the 2011-2012 state fiscal year.

21 SECTION 15. This Act takes effect immediately if it
22 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
23 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
24 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
25 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.