

By: King of Taylor

H.B. No. 3714

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to public school career and technology education program  
3 curriculum and funding and to development of a list of high-demand  
4 occupations for career and technology education students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.002, Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subsection (d) to read as follows:

8 (d) Each time the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
9 revises the Internet database of the coordinating board's official  
10 statewide inventory of workforce education courses, the State Board  
11 of Education shall by rule revise the essential knowledge and  
12 skills of any corresponding career and technology education  
13 curriculum as provided by Subsection (c).

14 SECTION 2. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is  
15 amended by adding Section 29.186 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 29.186. HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS LIST. (a) The Texas  
17 Workforce Commission shall develop, in consultation with the Texas  
18 Workforce Investment Council, a list of high-demand, high-wage,  
19 high-skill occupations in this state that have industry  
20 certifications. The Texas Workforce Commission shall provide the  
21 research and technical support for developing the list under this  
22 subsection.

23 (b) The Texas Workforce Investment Council shall consider  
24 the list developed under Subsection (a) and approve a list for

1 submission to the commissioner. On approval of the list, the Texas  
2 Workforce Investment Council shall deliver the list to the  
3 commissioner.

4 (c) The commissioner of education, after consultation with  
5 the commissioner of higher education, shall consider the list  
6 delivered under Subsection (b) and approve a final list of  
7 high-demand, high-wage, high-skill occupations in this state that  
8 have industry certifications.

9 (d) The list of high-demand, high-wage, high-skill  
10 occupations in this state that have industry certifications shall  
11 be reviewed and approved under the process provided by this section  
12 every four years.

13 SECTION 3. Sections 29.190(a) and (c), Education Code, are  
14 amended to read as follows:

15 (a) A student is entitled to a subsidy under this section  
16 if:

17 (1) the student:

18 (A) ~~[(1)]~~ successfully completes the career and  
19 technology program of a school district in which the student  
20 receives training and instruction for employment in a high-demand,  
21 high-wage, or high-skill ~~[certain]~~ trade or occupation, as  
22 determined under Section 29.186; or

23 (B) the student is enrolled in a special  
24 education program under Subchapter A; and

25 (2) passes a certification examination to qualify for  
26 a license or certificate for the trade or occupation ~~[, and~~

27 ~~[(3) demonstrates financial need].~~

1 (c) On approval by the commissioner, the agency shall pay  
2 each eligible student an amount equal to the cost paid by the  
3 student for the certification examination. To obtain a subsidy  
4 under this section, a student must:

- 5 (1) pay the fee for the examination; and  
6 (2) submit to the commissioner a written application  
7 on a form prescribed by the commissioner [~~demonstrating financial~~  
8 ~~need and~~] the amount of the fee paid by the student for the  
9 certification examination.

10 SECTION 4. Section 42.154(a), Education Code, is amended to  
11 read as follows:

12 (a) For each full-time equivalent student in average daily  
13 attendance in an approved career and technology education program  
14 in grades nine through 12 or in career and technology education  
15 programs for students with disabilities in grades seven through 12,  
16 a district is entitled to:

17 (1) an annual allotment equal to the adjusted basic  
18 allotment multiplied by a weight of 1.35; and

19 (2) \$50, if the student is enrolled in:

20 (A) two or more advanced career and technology  
21 education classes for a total of three or more credits; or

22 (B) an advanced course as part of a tech-prep  
23 program under Subchapter T, Chapter 61.

24 SECTION 5. Section 54.0065(a), Education Code, is amended  
25 to read as follows:

26 (a) A qualified student is eligible for a rebate of a  
27 portion of the undergraduate tuition the student has paid if the

1 student:

2 (1) is awarded a baccalaureate degree from a general  
3 academic teaching institution within the period prescribed by  
4 Section 56.462(1)(A) or (B), as applicable, to qualify for  
5 forgiveness of a Texas B-On-time loan; and

6 (2) has attempted no more than three hours in excess of  
7 the minimum number of semester credit hours required to complete  
8 the degree program:

9 (A) including:

10 (i) transfer credits; and

11 (ii) course credit earned exclusively by  
12 examination, except that, for purposes of this subsection, only the  
13 number of semester credit hours earned exclusively by examination  
14 in excess of nine semester credit hours is treated as hours  
15 attempted; and

16 (B) excluding course credit that is earned to  
17 satisfy requirements for a Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC)  
18 program or from a dual credit course for which the student received  
19 credit toward a high school diploma but that is not required to  
20 complete the degree program.

21 SECTION 6. Section 61.0595(d), Education Code, is amended  
22 to read as follows:

23 (d) The following are not counted for purposes of  
24 determining whether the student has previously earned the number of  
25 semester credit hours specified by Subsection (a):

26 (1) semester credit hours earned by the student before  
27 receiving a baccalaureate degree that has previously been awarded

1 to the student;

2 (2) semester credit hours earned by the student by  
3 examination or under any other procedure by which credit is earned  
4 without registering for a course for which tuition is charged;

5 (3) credit for a remedial education course, a  
6 technical course, a workforce education course funded according to  
7 contact hours, a dual credit course for which the student received  
8 credit toward a high school diploma, or another course that does not  
9 count toward the student's specific [a] degree program [~~at the~~  
10 ~~institution~~]; and

11 (4) semester credit hours earned by the student at a  
12 private institution or an out-of-state institution.

13 SECTION 7. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding  
14 Subchapter T-1 to read as follows:

15 SUBCHAPTER T-1. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION

16 Sec. 61.861. DEVELOPMENT OF MATHEMATICS AND SCIENCE COURSES  
17 FOR HIGH-DEMAND OCCUPATIONS. (a) The commissioner of higher  
18 education, in consultation with the comptroller and the Texas  
19 Workforce Commission, may award a grant in an amount not to exceed  
20 \$1 million to an institution of higher education to develop  
21 advanced mathematics and science courses to prepare high school  
22 students for employment in a high-demand occupation. The  
23 commissioner of higher education, the comptroller, and the Texas  
24 Workforce Commission shall jointly determine what is considered a  
25 high-demand occupation for purposes of this subchapter.

26 (b) An institution of higher education shall work in  
27 partnership with at least one independent school district and a

1 business entity in developing a course for purposes of this  
2 section.

3 (c) A course developed for purposes of this section must:

4 (1) provide content that enables a student to develop  
5 the relevant and critical skills needed to be prepared for  
6 employment or additional training in a high-demand occupation;

7 (2) incorporate college and career readiness skills as  
8 part of the curriculum;

9 (3) be offered for dual credit; and

10 (4) satisfy a mathematics or science requirement under  
11 the recommended or advanced high school program as determined under  
12 Section 28.025.

13 (d) An institution of higher education shall periodically  
14 review and revise the curriculum for a course developed for  
15 purposes of this section to accommodate changes in industry  
16 standards for the high-demand occupation.

17 Sec. 61.862. GRANT APPLICATION CRITERIA. The commissioner  
18 of higher education, in consultation with the comptroller and the  
19 Texas Workforce Commission, shall establish application criteria  
20 for a grant under this subchapter and in making an award, shall give  
21 priority to courses that:

22 (1) will prepare students for high-demand, high-wage,  
23 and high-skill occupations;

24 (2) may be transferred as college credit to multiple  
25 institutions of higher education; and

26 (3) are developed as part of a sequence of courses that  
27 includes statewide availability of the instructional materials and

1 training for the courses at a nominal cost to public educational  
2 institutions in this state.

3 Sec. 61.863. USE OF FUNDS. An institution of higher  
4 education may use funds awarded under this section to develop, in  
5 connection with a course described by Subsection (a):

- 6 (1) curriculum;  
7 (2) assessments; or  
8 (3) instructional materials, including  
9 technology-based supplemental materials.

10 Sec. 61.864. REVIEW OF COURSES. Courses developed for  
11 which a grant is awarded under this subchapter shall be reviewed by  
12 the commissioner of higher education, in consultation with the  
13 comptroller and the Texas Workforce Commission, once every four  
14 years to determine whether the course:

- 15 (1) is being used by public educational institutions  
16 in this state; and  
17 (2) prepares high school students with the skills  
18 necessary for employment in the high-demand occupation.

19 Sec. 61.865. MATCHING CONTRIBUTION REQUIRED. An  
20 institution of higher education awarded a grant under this  
21 subchapter must obtain from one or more business entities in the  
22 industry for which students taking courses developed under Section  
23 61.861 are training, in a total amount equal to the amount of the  
24 state grant:

- 25 (1) gifts, grants, or donations of funds; or  
26 (2) contributions of property that may be used in  
27 providing the courses.

1       Sec. 61.866. LIMITATION ON TOTAL AMOUNT OF GRANTS. In any  
2 state fiscal biennium, the total amount of grants awarded under  
3 this subchapter may not exceed \$10 million.

4       Sec. 61.867. FUNDING OF GRANTS. The commissioner of higher  
5 education shall administer this subchapter using available  
6 appropriations and gifts, grants, and donations made for the  
7 purposes of this subchapter.

8       SECTION 8. Section 29.190(b), Education Code, is repealed.

9       SECTION 9. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
10 54.0065(a), Education Code, applies to a tuition rebate regardless  
11 of the date a student enters a general academic teaching  
12 institution as a first-time freshman.

13       SECTION 10. The change in law made by this Act to Section  
14 61.0595, Education Code, applies beginning with the funding  
15 recommendations made under Section 61.059, Education Code, for the  
16 2011-2012 academic year.

17       SECTION 11. Sections 3 and 4 of this Act apply beginning  
18 with the 2009-2010 school year.

19       SECTION 12. This Act takes effect immediately if it  
20 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each  
21 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.  
22 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate  
23 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.