

By: Branch, Lewis, et al.

H.B. No. 34

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to including in the public high school curriculum
3 instruction in methods of paying for postsecondary education and
4 training.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.0021, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b) and (c) to read
8 as follows:

9 (a) The Texas essential knowledge and skills and Section
10 28.025 shall require instruction in personal financial literacy,
11 including instruction in methods of paying for college and other
12 postsecondary education and training, in one or more courses
13 required for high school graduation.

14 (b) Each school district and each open-enrollment charter
15 school that offers a high school program shall provide to a student
16 instruction in personal financial literacy in any course meeting
17 the requirements for an economics credit under Section 28.025,
18 using materials approved by the State Board of Education. The
19 instruction in personal financial literacy must include
20 instruction on completing the application for federal student aid
21 provided by the United States Department of Education. In
22 fulfilling the requirement to provide financial literacy
23 instruction under this section, a school district or
24 open-enrollment charter school may use an existing state, federal,

1 private, or nonprofit program that provides students without charge
2 the instruction described under this section.

3 (c) The State Board of Education shall, not later than
4 January 31, 2012, identify the essential knowledge and skills of
5 personal financial literacy instruction to include instruction in
6 methods of paying for college and other postsecondary education and
7 training and shall, not later than August 31, 2012, approve under
8 Subsection (b) materials that provide for such instruction.
9 Beginning with the 2013-2014 school year, each school district and
10 each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school
11 program shall include, in required instruction in personal
12 financial literacy, instruction in methods of paying for college
13 and other postsecondary education and training and use materials
14 approved for that purpose under Subsection (b). This subsection
15 expires September 1, 2014.

16 SECTION 2. Section 28.0021(c), Education Code, as added by
17 this Act, applies to a student entering grade nine on or after the
18 effective date of this Act.

19 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.