

By: Landtroop

H.B. No. 3119

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to certification required to teach public school elective courses on the Old and New Testaments and to students offered those courses.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.011(a) and (f), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A school district may offer to students in grade nine or above and to students at any district middle or junior high school that offers elective courses:

(1) an elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and its impact and an elective course on the New Testament and its impact; or

(2) an elective course that combines the courses described by Subdivision (1).

(f) A teacher of a course offered under this section must hold a certificate that qualifies the teacher to teach at the grade level at which the course is offered regardless of the content or subject area the certificate qualifies the teacher to teach ~~[minimum of a High School Composite Certification in language arts, social studies, or history with, where practical, a minor in religion or biblical studies]~~. A teacher selected to teach a course under this section shall successfully complete staff development training outlined in Section 21.459. A course under this section

1 may [~~only~~] be taught only by a teacher who has successfully
2 completed training under Section 21.459.

3 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2011-2012
4 school year.

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