

By: Van de Putte

S.B. No. 1348

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to higher education curriculum review teams to review public school curriculum standards for college readiness purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0024 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0024. HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM REVIEW TEAMS.

(a) For each subject undergoing a review for the purpose of identifying and adopting the essential knowledge and skills of a subject of the required curriculum under Section 28.002, the commissioner of higher education shall appoint a higher education curriculum review team to review and make recommendations to the State Board of Education concerning the essential knowledge and skills to ensure that proposed essential knowledge and skills:

(1) are factually accurate and aligned with contemporary scholarship;

(2) serve to prepare students for college; and

(3) serve appropriate instructional purposes.

(b) Each higher education curriculum review team shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than 10 faculty members of institutions of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003. Each member appointed to a team must have:

(1) at least five years of higher education teaching experience in the subject under review and a terminal degree in that

1 subject; or

2 (2) at least five years of higher education teaching  
3 experience in the field of education and a doctoral degree in  
4 education.

5 (c) For each higher education curriculum review team, a  
6 public institution of higher education may nominate one faculty  
7 member qualified under Subsection (b). A nomination made under  
8 this subsection must be submitted to the commissioner of higher  
9 education together with a document of not more than one page  
10 detailing the faculty member's experience, including specific  
11 experience with the subject under review by the team.

12 (d) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall  
13 develop and post on the board's Internet website a blind scoring  
14 system for ranking nominations made under Subsection (c) by level  
15 of expertise in the subject under review by each higher education  
16 curriculum review team.

17 (e) The commissioner of higher education, based on the  
18 system developed under Subsection (d), shall make the appointments  
19 to each higher education curriculum review team from among persons  
20 nominated by institutions of higher education under this section.

21 (f) Notwithstanding Subsections (c) and (e), if the subject  
22 under review by a higher education curriculum review team is career  
23 and technical education, at least one member of the team must be  
24 selected from each of the following institutions:

25 (1) Texas State Technical College System; and

26 (2) Lamar Institute of Technology.

27 (g) In selecting appointees for a higher education

1 curriculum review team, the commissioner of higher education shall  
2 attempt to achieve a balanced combination of educational  
3 perspectives.

4 (h) Each higher education curriculum review team shall,  
5 before final identification and adoption of the essential knowledge  
6 and skills by the State Board of Education, make recommendations to  
7 the State Board of Education concerning the essential knowledge and  
8 skills.

9 (i) The agency shall post on the agency's Internet website  
10 the recommendations of each higher education curriculum review  
11 team.

12 (j) The commissioner of higher education shall coordinate  
13 with the State Board of Education as necessary for the  
14 administration of this section.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.