

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 275

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to physical education credits required for high school graduation.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-11), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

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

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

(A) four credits in each subject of the foundation curriculum under Section 28.002(a)(1), including at least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in economics to meet the social studies requirement;

(B) for the recommended high school program, two credits in the same language in a language other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A) and, for the advanced high school program, three credits in the same language in a language other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A); and

(C) for the recommended high school program, five and one-half [~~six~~] elective credits and, for the advanced high school program, four and one-half [~~five~~] elective credits;

1 (2) one or more credits offered in the required
2 curriculum for the recommended and advanced high school programs
3 include a research writing component; and

4 (3) the curriculum requirements for the minimum,
5 recommended, and advanced high school programs under Subsection (a)
6 include a requirement that students successfully complete:

7 (A) one credit in fine arts under Section
8 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

9 (B) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one
10 and one-half credits [~~one credit~~] in physical education under
11 Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

12 (b-11) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State
13 Board of Education shall allow a student who is unable to
14 participate in physical activity due to disability or illness to
15 substitute one and one-half credits [~~one credit~~] in English
16 language arts, mathematics, science, [~~or~~] social studies, or an
17 [~~one~~] academic elective, or a combination of credits in those
18 courses equaling one and one-half credits, [~~credit~~] for the
19 physical education credits [~~credit~~] required under Subsection
20 (b-1)(3)(B). A credit allowed to be substituted under this
21 subsection may not also be used by the student to satisfy a
22 graduation requirement other than completion of the physical
23 education credits [~~credit~~]. The rules must provide that the
24 determination regarding a student's ability to participate in
25 physical activity will be made by:

26 (1) if the student receives special education services
27 under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review,

1 and dismissal committee;

2 (2) if the student does not receive special education
3 services under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, but is covered by Section
4 504, Rehabilitation Act of 1973 (29 U.S.C. Section 794), the
5 committee established for the student under that Act; or

6 (3) if each of the committees described by
7 Subdivisions (1) and (2) is inapplicable, a committee established
8 by the school district of persons with appropriate knowledge
9 regarding the student.

10 SECTION 2. Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-11), Education Code,
11 as amended by this Act, apply only to students entering the ninth
12 grade during the 2013-2014 school year or a later school year. For
13 students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2013-2014
14 school year, Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-11), Education Code, as
15 those sections existed before amendment by this Act, apply, and
16 those sections are continued in effect for that purpose.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.