

By: Munoz, Jr.

H.B. No. 1500

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a workforce high school diploma program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0255 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0255. WORKFORCE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PROGRAM. (a)

The State Board of Education, in coordination with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall by rule develop a workforce high school diploma program under which students who have not received a high school diploma and who have successfully completed a workforce certificate course of study as described by Subsection (b) may receive a high school diploma as provided by this section.

(b) For purposes of this section, a workforce certificate course of study is a sequential course of study of at least 30 credit hours in a career and technical education program offered by a public junior college that leads to industry or career certification.

(c) In adopting rules to develop the program under Subsection (a), the State Board of Education, in coordination with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall approve a variety of career and technical education programs described by Subsection (b).

(d) A person is eligible to participate in a workforce high school diploma program under this section if the person:

1 (1) is at least 18 years of age;

2 (2) for the preceding 12 months has not been enrolled
3 in high school; and

4 (3) has satisfactorily completed at least one-half of
5 the credits required in a high school program curriculum under
6 Section 28.025.

7 (e) Notwithstanding any other provision of this code, a
8 person is eligible to receive a high school diploma under this
9 section if the student:

10 (1) satisfactorily completes a workforce certificate
11 course of study described by Subsection (b); and

12 (2) complies with any additional requirements
13 provided by rule by the State Board of Education, in coordination
14 with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, including
15 assessment or other accountability requirements.

16 (f) The school district in which an eligible person resides
17 shall issue to that person a high school diploma as provided by this
18 subsection. The State Board of Education, in coordination with the
19 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall by rule adopt the
20 form and designate the title of a diploma issued under this section.
21 The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to authorize school
22 districts to issue diplomas to eligible students under this
23 section.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.