

By: White

H.B. No. 2108

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to a three-year high school diploma plan and cost-neutral
3 expansion of full-day prekindergarten programs.

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

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

7 Sec. 28.0255. THREE-YEAR HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PLAN. (a) A
8 school district may develop and implement a program for students
9 who wish to obtain a high school diploma after completion of three
10 years of secondary school attendance as an alternative to the
11 traditional four-year period of attendance.

12 (b) Participation by a student in the program must be
13 voluntary, with approval of the student's parent. A student who
14 agrees to participate in the program may, on request, discontinue
15 participation and resume taking courses under the minimum,
16 recommended, or advanced high school program.

17 (c) Notwithstanding Section 28.025, the school district
18 shall specify the curriculum requirements for receiving a high
19 school diploma under the program. The curriculum requirements must
20 ensure that a student who graduates under the program possesses
21 sufficient knowledge and skills in English language arts and
22 mathematics to be capable of performing successfully in
23 postsecondary education courses.

24 (d) The school district shall submit the proposed

1 curriculum requirements to the State Board of Education for comment
2 and the commissioner for approval. The district may not implement
3 the program before obtaining the commissioner's approval of the
4 proposed curriculum requirements.

5 (e) A student is entitled to a high school diploma if the
6 student:

7 (1) successfully complies with the curriculum
8 requirements specified under Subsection (c); and

9 (2) performs satisfactorily, as determined by the
10 commissioner under Subsection (f), on end-of-course assessment
11 instruments listed under Section 39.023(c) for courses in which the
12 student was enrolled.

13 (f) For purposes of Subsection (e)(2), the commissioner
14 shall determine the level of satisfactory performance on applicable
15 end-of-course assessment instruments administered to a student.

16 (g) The school district shall report the academic
17 achievement record of students who have completed the program on a
18 transcript that clearly identifies the program and distinguishes
19 the program from the minimum, recommended, and advanced high school
20 programs.

21 (h) A student who has received a diploma under the program
22 is exempt from the compulsory school attendance requirements under
23 Section 25.085.

24 (i) To the extent this section conflicts with any other
25 provision of this code or rule adopted under this code, this section
26 prevails.

27 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 42, Education Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 42.2526 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 42.2526. ADJUSTMENT FOR DISTRICT OPERATING THREE-YEAR
3 DIPLOMA PROGRAM. (a) This section applies only to a school
4 district operating a program authorized by Section 28.0255.

5 (b) Beginning with the first school year that follows the
6 first school year in which students receive high school diplomas
7 under the program authorized by Section 28.0255 and continuing for
8 every subsequent school year that the district operates the
9 program, the commissioner shall provide funding for the district's
10 prekindergarten program under Section 29.153 on a full-day basis
11 for a number of prekindergarten students equal to twice the number
12 of students who received a high school diploma under the program
13 authorized by Section 28.0255 during the preceding school year.

14 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.