

By: Nelson

S.B. No. 134

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to health and 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 ~~six~~ elective credits and, for the advanced high school program, four ~~five~~ elective credits;

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

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

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

(B) except as provided by Subsection (b-11), 1.5 credits ~~[one credit]~~ in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C); and

(C) one-half credit in health under Section 28.002(a)(2)(B).

(b-11) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State Board of Education shall allow a student who is unable to participate in physical activity due to disability or illness to substitute 1.5 credits ~~[one credit]~~ in English language arts, mathematics, science, ~~[or]~~ social studies, or an ~~[one]~~ academic elective, or a combination of credits in those courses equaling 1.5 credits, ~~[credit]~~ for the physical education credits ~~[credit]~~ required under Subsection (b-1)(3)(B). A credit allowed to be substituted under this subsection may not also be used by the student to satisfy a graduation requirement other than completion of the physical education credits ~~[credit]~~. The rules must provide that the determination regarding a student's ability to participate in physical activity will be made by:

(1) if the student receives special education services

1 under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, the student's admission, review,
2 and dismissal committee;

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

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

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.