

By: Watson

S.B. No. 278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an alcohol awareness component of the science curriculum used in public schools.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.002(r), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(r) The ~~[In adopting the essential knowledge and skills for the health curriculum under Subsection (a)(2)(B), the]~~ State Board of Education by rule shall require a school district or open-enrollment charter school to provide to students in middle school, junior high school, and high school instruction ~~[adopt essential knowledge and skills]~~ that addresses ~~[address]~~ the dangers, causes, consequences, signs, symptoms, and treatment of binge drinking and alcohol poisoning. The agency shall compile a list of evidence-based alcohol awareness programs from which a school district or open-enrollment charter school shall choose a program to use in the district's or school's middle school, junior high school, and high school science ~~[health]~~ curriculum. The agency shall make alcohol awareness programs available without cost. To the extent possible, the programs shall be accessible electronically for school districts and open-enrollment charter schools. A high school shall use a program chosen under this subsection in a course that satisfies the science curriculum requirement for graduation under Section 28.025(b-1)(1)(A). In

1 this subsection, "evidence-based alcohol awareness program" means
2 a program, practice, or strategy that has been proven to
3 effectively prevent or delay alcohol use among students, as
4 determined by evaluations that use valid and reliable measures and
5 that are published in peer-reviewed journals.

6 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
7 school year.

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