

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 8, 2013

TO: Honorable Dan Patrick, Chair, Senate Committee on Education

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: **HB1926** by King, Ken (Relating to the operation of the state virtual school network and courses provided through other distance learning arrangements.), **As Engrossed**

<p>No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.</p>
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The bill would expand the list of eligible course providers through the state virtual school network to include nonprofit entities, private entities, and corporations that provide an electronic professional development course.

The bill would authorize the state virtual school network to enter into a reciprocity agreement with one or more states to facilitate expedited course approval.

The bill would authorize a charter to receive funding for the student's enrollment in a state virtual school network course in accordance with the terms of its charter. The bill would require the Commissioner of Education to negotiate an agreement with each eligible course provider that governs the costs of each course. The full amount for courses could not exceed \$400 per course or \$4,800 for a full-time student.

The bill would allow a school district or open-enrollment charter school to decline to pay for more than three yearlong electronic courses for a student or the equivalent during a school year. Students could enroll in additional electronic courses at their own cost. The bill would allow a district or charter school to charge a fee to an enrolled full-time student who elected to enroll in the VSN and the district declined to pay the cost for the course.

The State Board of Education (SBOE) would be required to maintain oversight of services and products relating to public student curriculum regardless of the whether the product or service was online, in print, or in person. No products or services relating to public school curriculum could be offered without board approval including the form and content of the product or service.

The bill would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to make district distance learning courses available on the TEA website.

The bill would require course providers to apply for renewal of previously approved courses coinciding with revisions to the required curriculum or the 10th anniversary of the previous approval.

The bill would limit FSP funding for a student's enrollment to a maximum of three electronic courses during a school year.

The bill would prohibit course providers from promising or providing equipment or other items of value to a student or their parent as an inducement to enroll in courses in the virtual school network. The commissioner of education would be required to revoke approval of courses offered by the course provider that violated these provisions.

Based on information provided by the Texas Education Agency, this analysis assumes that any costs associated with implementing the provisions of this bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

A school district or open-enrollment charter school would be required to pay course providers for a student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network under the terms negotiated by the Commissioner of Education. The district or charter could decline payment for more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during a school year.

Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

LBB Staff: UP, JBi, JSc, AH