

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 3417
By: Bernal
Public Education
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Interested parties note that a student enrolled in a special education program is currently unable to earn an endorsement on the student's transcript if the student is administered a modified curriculum. The parties contend that this leads to disabled students being deprived of meaningful graduation choices, and the parties assert that most students with disabilities, with specially designed instruction and accommodations, can meet the graduation standards targeted for all other students. Further, the parties point to studies that demonstrate career and vocational courses are pivotal for students with disabilities and their post-secondary success and independence. The goal of C.S.H.B. 3417 is to ensure that students who are administered a modified curriculum are able to qualify for an endorsement if they successfully complete curriculum requirements.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 3417 amends the Education Code to authorize a student who is enrolled in a special education program to earn an endorsement on the student's transcript by successfully completing, with or without modification of the curriculum, the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education (SBOE) for the foundation high school program and certain additional endorsement curriculum requirements prescribed by the SBOE and by successfully completing all curriculum requirements for that endorsement adopted by the SBOE without modification of the curriculum or with modification of the curriculum if the courses are part of a coherent sequence of coursework that is sufficiently rigorous as determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee. The bill requires the admission, review, and dismissal committee of a student in a special education program to determine whether the student is required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course test to earn an endorsement on the student's transcript. The bill applies beginning with the 2015–2016 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2015.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 3417 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the

following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-7) and (c-8) to read as follows:

(c-7) Subject to Subsection (c-8), a student who is enrolled in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, may earn an endorsement on the student's diploma and transcript by:

(1) successfully completing, with or without modification of the curriculum:

(A) the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a); and

(B) the additional endorsement curriculum requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education under Subsection (c-2); and

(2) successfully completing, with or without modification of the curriculum, all curriculum requirements for that endorsement adopted by the State Board of Education if the courses are part of a coherent sequence of coursework that lead to a nationally or internationally recognized business or industry certification or license.

(c-8) For purposes of Subsection (c-7), the admission, review, and dismissal committee of a student in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, shall determine whether the student is required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course assessment instrument to earn an endorsement on the student's diploma and transcript.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c-7) and (c-8) to read as follows:

(c-7) Subject to Subsection (c-8), a student who is enrolled in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, may earn an endorsement on the student's transcript by:

(1) successfully completing, with or without modification of the curriculum:

(A) the curriculum requirements identified by the State Board of Education under Subsection (a); and

(B) the additional endorsement curriculum requirements prescribed by the State Board of Education under Subsection (c-2); and

(2) successfully completing all curriculum requirements for that endorsement adopted by the State Board of Education:

(A) without modification of the curriculum; or

(B) with modification of the curriculum if the courses are part of a coherent sequence of coursework that is sufficiently rigorous as determined by the student's admission, review, and dismissal committee.

(c-8) For purposes of Subsection (c-7), the admission, review, and dismissal committee of a student in a special education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, shall determine whether the student is required to achieve satisfactory performance on an end-of-course assessment instrument to earn an endorsement on the student's transcript.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.