

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 2760

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state virtual school network, including funding and the provision of courses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031(c-1), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may decline to pay the cost for a student of more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any school year. This subsection does not

~~[(1)]~~ limit the ability of the student to enroll in additional electronic courses at the student's cost

~~[(2) apply to a student enrolled in a full-time online program that was operating on January 1, 2013].~~

SECTION 2. Section 30A.101(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

(1) complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;

(2) demonstrates financial solvency; and

(3) either:

(A) provides evidence of prior successful

1 experience offering online courses to kindergarten or elementary,
2 middle, or high school students, with demonstrated student success
3 in course completion and performance, as determined by the
4 commissioner; or

5 (B) provides evidence that it is capable of
6 carrying out the responsibilities of a course provider and is
7 likely to provide high quality courses, as determined by the
8 commissioner.

9 SECTION 3. Section 30A.104(a), Education Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) A course offered through the state virtual school
12 network must:

13 (1) be in a specific subject that is part of the
14 required curriculum under Section 28.002(a);

15 (2) be aligned with the essential knowledge and skills
16 identified under Section 28.002(c) for a grade level at or above
17 kindergarten [~~grade level three~~]; and

18 (3) be the equivalent in instructional rigor and scope
19 to a course that is provided in a traditional classroom setting
20 during:

21 (A) a semester of 90 instructional days; and

22 (B) a school day that meets the minimum length of
23 a school day required under Section 25.082.

24 SECTION 4. Section 30A.151(f), Education Code, is amended
25 to read as follows:

26 (f) For a full-time electronic course program offered
27 through the state virtual school network for a grade level at or

1 above kindergarten [~~grade level three~~] but not above grade level
2 eight, a school district or open-enrollment charter school is
3 entitled to receive federal, state, and local funding for a student
4 enrolled in the program in an amount equal to the funding the
5 district or school would otherwise receive for a student enrolled
6 in the district or school. The district or school may calculate the
7 average daily attendance of a student enrolled in the program based
8 on:

- 9 (1) hours of contact with the student;
10 (2) the student's successful completion of a course;
11 or
12 (3) a method approved by the commissioner.

13 SECTION 5. Section [30A.153](#)(a), Education Code, is amended
14 to read as follows:

15 (a) A [~~Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection~~
16 ~~(a-1), a~~] school district or open-enrollment charter school in
17 which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42
18 or in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section
19 [12.101](#) for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered
20 through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the
21 district or school is entitled to funding for the student's
22 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,
23 provided that the student successfully completes the electronic
24 course.

25 SECTION 6. Section [30A.153](#)(a-1), Education Code, is
26 repealed.

27 SECTION 7. This Act applies beginning with the 2015-2016

1 school year.

2 SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.