

By: Gonzales

H.B. No. 3278

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to measures to support public school student academic
3 achievement and career preparation, including measures to improve
4 and support dual-credit courses.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 28.009(b), Education Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 (b) The agency shall coordinate with the Texas Higher
9 Education Coordinating Board as necessary in administering this
10 section. The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary concerning
11 the duties under this section of a school district. The Texas Higher
12 Education Coordinating Board may adopt rules as necessary
13 concerning the duties under this section of a public institution of
14 higher education. A rule may not limit the number of dual credit
15 courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school
16 or limit the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a
17 student may enroll each semester or academic year.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
19 amended by adding Section 28.016 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 28.016. INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND
21 CAREER PREPARATION. (a) Each school district shall provide
22 instruction to students in grades seven and eight in preparing for
23 high school, college, and a career.

24 (b) The instruction must include information regarding:

1 (1) the creation of a high school personal graduation
2 plan under Section 28.02121;

3 (2) the distinguished level of achievement described
4 by Section 28.025(b-15);

5 (3) each endorsement described by Section
6 28.025(c-1);

7 (4) college readiness standards; and

8 (5) potential career choices and the education needed
9 to enter those careers.

10 (c) A school district may provide the instruction as a part
11 of any existing course or may establish a new course through which
12 to provide the instruction.

13 SECTION 3. Section 130.008, Education Code, is amended by
14 adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

15 (g) A course offered for joint high school and junior
16 college credit under this section must be taught by a qualified
17 instructor approved or selected by the public junior college. For
18 purposes of this subsection, an instructor is qualified if the
19 instructor holds:

20 (1) a doctoral or master's degree in the discipline
21 that is the subject of the course; or

22 (2) a master's degree in another discipline with a
23 concentration that required completion of a minimum of 18 graduate
24 semester hours in the discipline that is the subject of the course.

25 (h) Not later than the 60th day after receipt, a public
26 junior college shall approve or reject an application for approval
27 to teach a course at a high school that is submitted by an

1 instructor employed by the school district, organization, or other
2 person that operates the high school with which the junior college
3 entered into an agreement under this section to offer the course.

4 SECTION 4. Section 303.003(b-2), Labor Code, is amended to
5 read as follows:

6 (b-2) In addition to the purposes described by Subsections
7 (b) and (b-1), in each state fiscal biennium, an amount of money
8 from the skills development fund not to exceed five percent of the
9 amount of general revenue appropriated to the skills development
10 fund for that biennium may be used as provided by this
11 subsection. Funds available to the commission from other sources
12 may also be used as provided by this subsection. Funds may be
13 awarded under this subsection to a lower-division institution of
14 higher education to be used under an agreement with a school
15 district, or to a school district to be used under an agreement with
16 a lower-division institution of higher education, to support
17 courses offered for joint high school and college-level credit or
18 offered under a college credit career or technical education
19 program that leads to an industry-recognized license, credential,
20 or certificate. Appropriate uses of funds awarded under this
21 subsection include purchasing or repairing necessary equipment for
22 a course and developing a course curriculum. A course or program
23 supported under this subsection must:

24 (1) have the endorsement of, or a letter of support
25 from, at least one employer in this state; and

26 (2) be targeted to address the needs of high-demand
27 fields or occupations, as identified by the applicable local

1 workforce development board.

2 SECTION 5. Section 28.016, Education Code, as added by this
3 Act, applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

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