

By: Perry, et al.

S.B. No. 13

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 and the development of public
5 outreach materials.

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

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

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

19 SECTION 2. (a) Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code,
20 is amended by adding Section 28.015 to read as follows:

21 Sec. 28.015. PUBLIC OUTREACH MATERIALS TO PROMOTE
22 CURRICULUM CHANGE AWARENESS. (a) The agency shall develop uniform
23 public outreach materials that explain the importance and outline
24 the details of public school curriculum changes under Chapter 211

1 (H.B. 5), Acts of the 83rd Legislature, Regular Session, 2013, and
2 subsequent associated decisions by the State Board of Education.
3 The agency shall make the materials available to school districts.

4 (b) The materials developed under this section must:

5 (1) be available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese;

6 (2) be in a form that would allow school districts to
7 mail the information to students and parents; and

8 (3) include an explanation of:

9 (A) the basic career and college readiness
10 components of each endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1);

11 (B) the curriculum requirements to gain
12 automatic college admission under Section 51.803; and

13 (C) applicable course, graduation plan, and
14 endorsement requirements for financial aid authorized under Title
15 3, including curriculum requirements for:

16 (i) the TEXAS grant as provided under
17 Subchapter M, Chapter 56;

18 (ii) the Texas Educational Opportunity
19 Grant Program as provided under Subchapter P, Chapter 56; and

20 (iii) the Texas B-On-time loan program as
21 provided under Subchapter Q, Chapter 56.

22 (c) This section expires September 1, 2018.

23 (b) The Texas Education Agency shall develop the materials
24 described under Section 28.015, Education Code, as added by this
25 section, no later than December 1, 2015.

26 SECTION 3. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
27 amended by adding Section 28.016 to read as follows:

1 Sec. 28.016. INSTRUCTION IN HIGH SCHOOL, COLLEGE, AND
2 CAREER PREPARATION. (a) Each school district shall provide
3 instruction to students in grades seven or eight in preparing for
4 high school, college, and a career.

5 (b) The instruction must include information regarding:

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

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

10 (3) each endorsement described by Section
11 28.025(c-1);

12 (4) college readiness standards; and

13 (5) potential career choices and the education needed
14 to enter those careers.

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

18 SECTION 4. Section 130.008, Education Code, is amended by
19 adding Subsections (g) and (h) to read as follows:

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

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

27 (2) a master's degree in another discipline with a

1 concentration that required completion of a minimum of 18 graduate
2 semester hours in the discipline that is the subject of the course.

3 (h) Not later than the 60th day after receipt, a public
4 junior college shall approve or reject an application for approval
5 to teach a course at a high school that is submitted by an
6 instructor employed by the school district, organization, or other
7 person that operates the high school with which the junior college
8 entered into an agreement under this section to offer the course.

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

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

1 under this subsection must:

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

4 (2) be targeted to address the needs of high-demand
5 fields or occupations, as identified by the applicable local
6 workforce development board.

7 SECTION 6. Section 28.016, Education Code, as added by this
8 Act, applies beginning with the 2015-2016 school year.

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