

By: VanDeaver

H.B. No. 1980

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the high school graduation of a student who transfers to a public school in this state after the student's junior year of high school.

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

SECTION 1. Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by adding Subsection (c-9) to read as follows:

(c-9) Notwithstanding Subsection (c), a person may receive a diploma if the person is eligible for a diploma under Section 28.02591.

SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.02591 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.02591. HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA AWARDED TO TRANSFER STUDENT ON BASIS OF INDIVIDUAL GRADUATION COMMITTEE REVIEW. (a) This section applies only to a student who:

(1) transfers into the public school system of this state after completion of the student's 11th grade year in high school in a different state; and

(2) will:

(A) be unable, based on the credit awarded to the student by the public school system for coursework completed in a different state, to comply with the curriculum requirements of this state for high school graduation by the end of the student's 12th grade year; or

1           (B) have difficulty complying with the  
2 end-of-course assessment instrument requirements for high school  
3 graduation imposed under Section 39.025.

4           (b) For each student to whom this section applies, the  
5 school district that the student attends shall establish an  
6 individual graduation committee at the beginning of the student's  
7 12th grade year to determine whether the student may qualify to  
8 graduate as provided by this section. A student may not qualify to  
9 graduate under this section before the student's 12th grade year.  
10 The committee shall be composed of:

11                   (1) the principal or principal's designee;

12                   (2) the department chair or lead teacher for each  
13 subject for which an end-of-course assessment instrument is  
14 administered under Section 39.023(c); and

15                   (3) the student's parent or person standing in  
16 parental relation to the student or the student, if the student is  
17 at least 18 years of age.

18           (c) The superintendent of each school district shall  
19 establish procedures for the convening of an individual graduation  
20 committee under this section.

21           (d) To be eligible to graduate and receive a high school  
22 diploma under this section, a student must have:

23                   (1) performed satisfactorily on one or more  
24 alternative nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment  
25 instruments as provided by Sections 39.025(h) and (i); and

26                   (2) completed coursework determined by the committee  
27 to be sufficient for the award of a high school diploma.

1       (e) In determining whether a student for whom an individual  
2 graduation committee is established is qualified to graduate, the  
3 committee shall consider:

4           (1) the recommendation of the student's teacher in  
5 each course for which the student was not administered an  
6 end-of-course assessment instrument;

7           (2) the student's performance on each alternative  
8 nationally recognized norm-referenced assessment instrument that  
9 the student requests to be considered;

10          (3) the student's overall preparedness for  
11 postsecondary success; and

12          (4) any other academic information designated for  
13 consideration by the board of trustees of the school district.

14       (f) After considering the criteria under Subsection (e),  
15 the individual graduation committee may determine that the student  
16 is qualified to graduate. The commissioner by rule shall establish  
17 a timeline for making a determination under this subsection. The  
18 decision of a committee is final and may not be appealed.

19       (g) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to  
20 implement this section.

21       SECTION 3. Section 39.025, Education Code, is amended by  
22 adding Subsections (h) and (i) to read as follows:

23       (h) Notwithstanding any other provision of this section,  
24 the commissioner shall allow a student to satisfy the requirements  
25 of Subsection (a) and qualify for a high school diploma through  
26 satisfactory performance on one or more alternative nationally  
27 recognized norm-referenced assessment instruments if the student

1 transfers into the public school system of this state after  
2 completion of the student's 11th grade year in high school in a  
3 different state and the student receives a recommendation by the  
4 student's individual graduation committee under Section 28.02591  
5 that the student qualifies for a high school diploma.

6 (i) For purposes of Subsection (h), the commissioner, in  
7 order to ensure that a student described by that subsection may  
8 satisfy the requirements of Subsection (a) solely through  
9 performance on one or more alternative assessment instruments,  
10 shall establish required performance levels for the alternative  
11 assessment instrument or instruments that correspond to the  
12 performance levels otherwise required under Subsection (a) on the  
13 secondary exit-level assessment instruments for English language  
14 arts, mathematics, social studies, and science.

15 SECTION 4. Section 28.02591, Education Code, as added by  
16 this Act, and Section 39.025, Education Code, as amended by this  
17 Act, apply beginning with students enrolled in public high schools  
18 in this state as a senior during the 2017-2018 school year.

19 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.