By:  Alvarado, et al. S.B. No. 686

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to courses in personal financial literacy and economics for high school students in public schools.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.025, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b-1) and adding Subsection (b-24) to read as follows:

(b-1)  The State Board of Education by rule shall require that the curriculum requirements for the foundation high school program under Subsection (a) include a requirement that students successfully complete:

(1)  four credits in English language arts under Section 28.002(a)(1)(A), including one credit in English I, one credit in English II, one credit in English III, and one credit in an advanced English course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

(2)  three credits in mathematics under Section 28.002(a)(1)(B), including one credit in Algebra I, one credit in geometry, and one credit in any advanced mathematics course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

(3)  three credits in science under Section 28.002(a)(1)(C), including one credit in biology, one credit in any advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2), and one credit in integrated physics and chemistry or in an additional advanced science course authorized under Subsection (b-2);

(4)  three credits in social studies under Section 28.002(a)(1)(D), including one credit in United States history, at least one-half credit in government and at least one-half credit in economics or personal financial literacy and economics, and one credit in world geography or world history;

(5)  except as provided under Subsections (b-12), (b-13), and (b-14), two credits in the same language in a language other than English under Section 28.002(a)(2)(A);

(6)  five elective credits;

(7)  one credit in fine arts under Section 28.002(a)(2)(D); and

(8)  except as provided by Subsection (b-11), one credit in physical education under Section 28.002(a)(2)(C).

(b-24)  In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State Board of Education shall ensure that a personal financial literacy and economics course taken to comply with the curriculum requirement under Subsection (b-1)(4) allocates:

(1)  two-thirds of instruction time to instruction in personal financial literacy; and

(2)  one-third of instruction time to instruction in economics.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2020-2021 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, 2019.