

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3141

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to providing by contract for a public or private entity to
3 act as the administering authority for the state virtual school
4 network and to the duties of the administering authority.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 30A.001(1), Education Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (1) "Administering authority" means the entity
9 contracted with [~~designated~~] under Section 30A.053 to administer
10 the state virtual school network.

11 SECTION 2. Section 30A.051(a), Education Code, is amended
12 to read as follows:

13 (a) The commissioner shall:

14 (1) administer the state virtual school network in
15 coordination with the administering authority; and

16 (2) ensure:

17 (A) high-quality education for students in this
18 state who are being educated through electronic courses provided
19 through the state virtual school network; and

20 (B) equitable access by students to those
21 courses.

22 SECTION 3. Section 30A.053, Education Code, is amended to
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 30A.053. CONTRACT FOR [~~DESIGNATION OF~~] ADMINISTERING

1 AUTHORITY. The commissioner shall contract with a public or
2 private entity [~~designate an agency employee or a group of agency~~
3 ~~employees~~] to act as the administering authority for the state
4 virtual school network.

5 SECTION 4. The heading to Section 30A.105, Education Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 30A.105. EVALUATION AND APPROVAL OF ELECTRONIC
8 COURSES.

9 SECTION 5. Sections 30A.105(c) and (d), Education Code, are
10 amended to read as follows:

11 (c) The administering authority [~~agency~~] shall pay the
12 reasonable costs of evaluating and approving electronic courses.
13 If funds available to the administering authority [~~agency~~] for that
14 purpose are insufficient to pay the costs of evaluating and
15 approving all electronic courses submitted for evaluation and
16 approval, the administering authority [~~agency~~] shall give priority
17 to paying the costs of evaluating and approving the following
18 courses:

19 (1) courses that satisfy high school graduation
20 requirements;

21 (2) courses that would likely benefit a student in
22 obtaining admission to a postsecondary institution;

23 (3) courses, including dual credit courses, that allow
24 a student to earn college credit or other advanced credit;

25 (4) courses in subject areas most likely to be highly
26 beneficial to students receiving educational services under the
27 supervision of a juvenile probation department, the Texas Juvenile

1 Justice Department, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice;
2 and

3 (5) courses in subject areas designated by the
4 commissioner as commonly experiencing a shortage of teachers.

5 (d) If the administering authority [~~agency~~] determines that
6 the costs of evaluating and approving a submitted electronic course
7 will not be paid by the administering authority [~~agency~~] due to a
8 shortage of funds available for that purpose, the administering
9 authority may assess and the school district, open-enrollment
10 charter school, public or private institution of higher education,
11 or other eligible entity that submitted the course for evaluation
12 and approval may pay a fee equal to the amount of the costs in order
13 to ensure that evaluation of the course occurs. The administering
14 authority [~~agency~~] shall establish and publish a fee schedule for
15 purposes of this subsection.

16 SECTION 6. Section 30A.108(b), Education Code, is amended
17 to read as follows:

18 (b) Each report under this section must describe each
19 electronic course offered through the state virtual school network
20 and include the following information:

- 21 (1) course requirements;
- 22 (2) the school year calendar for the course, including
23 any options for continued participation outside of the standard
24 school year calendar;
- 25 (3) the entity that developed the course;
- 26 (4) the entity that provided the course;
- 27 (5) the course completion rate;

1 (6) from information provided by the agency, aggregate
2 student performance on an assessment instrument administered under
3 Section 39.023 to students enrolled in the course;

4 (7) from information provided by the agency, aggregate
5 student performance on all assessment instruments administered
6 under Section 39.023 to students who completed the course
7 provider's courses; and

8 (8) other information determined by the commissioner.

9 SECTION 7. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is
10 amended by adding Section 30A.1081 to read as follows:

11 Sec. 30A.1081. INFORMATION PROVIDED BY AGENCY FOR INFORMED
12 CHOICE REPORTS. For purposes of including the information under
13 Sections 30A.108(b)(6) and (7) in the report required under that
14 section, the agency shall provide that information to the
15 administering authority in sufficient time for the administering
16 authority to comply with the reporting requirement under that
17 section.

18 SECTION 8. Section 30A.1121(b), Education Code, is amended
19 to read as follows:

20 (b) The administering authority [~~agency~~] shall review each
21 professional development course sought to be provided by a course
22 provider under Subsection (a) to determine if the course meets the
23 quality standards established under Section 30A.113. If a course
24 meets those standards, the course provider may provide the course
25 for purposes of enabling a teacher to comply with Section
26 30A.111(a)(2).

27 SECTION 9. Section 30A.115, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 30A.115. ADDITIONAL RESOURCES. The commissioner by
3 rule may establish procedures for providing additional resources,
4 such as an online library, to students and educators served through
5 the state virtual school network. The administering authority may
6 provide the additional resources only if the commissioner or
7 administering authority receives an appropriation, gift, or grant
8 sufficient to pay the costs of providing those resources.

9 SECTION 10. Section 30A.152(a), Education Code, is amended
10 to read as follows:

11 (a) The commissioner or the administering authority may
12 accept a grant for purposes of this chapter from a public or private
13 person and shall use those funds in accordance with the
14 commissioner's or the administering authority's duties, as
15 applicable, regarding the state virtual school network.

16 SECTION 11. As soon as practicable after the effective date
17 of this Act, the commissioner of education shall advertise a
18 request for proposals for an administering authority for the state
19 virtual school network under Section 30A.053, Education Code, as
20 amended by this Act.

21 SECTION 12. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.