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S.B. No. 863

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study of costs associated with dual credit courses offered at public high schools.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0091 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0091. STUDY OF COSTS OF DUAL CREDIT COURSES.

(a) The agency shall conduct an ongoing study to examine costs associated with dual credit courses offered at public high schools.

In conducting the study, the agency shall:

(1) collect from school districts, public institutions of higher education, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board data relating to costs associated with dual credit courses, including:

(A) tuition and required fees;

(B) the cost of required textbooks or other instructional materials;

(C) the cost of student transportation to and from the location at which a dual credit course is provided;

(D) any fee collected to pay the instructor of a dual credit course;

(E) the cost of any assessment instrument administered under Section 51.333 as a prerequisite for enrollment in a dual credit course;

1           (F) the cost of using a facility at which a dual  
2 credit course is provided; and

3           (G) any other associated costs identified during  
4 the study;

5           (2) identify the sources of funding for dual credit  
6 courses and the amount funded by each source; and

7           (3) consult with relevant stakeholders, including the  
8 Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, the American Institutes  
9 for Research, and the Texas Dual Credit Task Force.

10          (b) The agency may contract with any public or private  
11 entity to conduct the study under this section.

12          (c) Not later than December 1 of each even-numbered year,  
13 the agency shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor,  
14 and the speaker of the house of representatives a report on the  
15 results of the study under this section. The report must include a  
16 comparison of:

17           (1) costs associated with dual credit courses offered  
18 at public high schools generally and costs associated with dual  
19 credit courses offered through a college and career readiness  
20 school program, including:

21                   (A) an early college high school program;

22                   (B) the Pathways in Technology Early College High  
23 School (P-TECH) program established under Section [29.553](#);

24                   (C) an Industry Cluster Innovative Academy; and

25                   (D) a Texas Science, Technology, Engineering,  
26 and Mathematics (T-STEM) Center; and

27           (2) the cost associated with dual credit courses per

1 semester credit hour or the equivalent and the total cost  
2 associated with those courses.

3 (d) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to  
4 administer this section.

5 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2020, the Texas  
6 Education Agency shall submit the initial report required under  
7 Section 28.0091, Education Code, as added by this Act.

8 SECTION 3. The Texas Education Agency is required to  
9 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature  
10 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the  
11 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
12 purpose, the Texas Education Agency may, but is not required to,  
13 implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations  
14 available for that purpose.

15 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.