87R9344 MLH-D

By:  Guerra H.B. No. 3575

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1.  Section 8.051(d), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(d)  Each regional education service center shall maintain core services for purchase by school districts and campuses. The core services are:

(1)  training and assistance in:

(A)  teaching each subject area assessed under Section 39.023; and

(B)  providing instruction in personal financial literacy and career skills as required under Section 28.0021;

(2)  training and assistance in providing a gifted and talented program and each program that qualifies for a funding allotment under Section 48.102, 48.104, or 48.105;

(3)  assistance specifically designed for a school district or campus assigned an unacceptable performance rating under Section 39.054;

(4)  training and assistance to teachers, administrators, members of district boards of trustees, and members of site-based decision-making committees;

(5)  assistance specifically designed for a school district that is considered out of compliance with state or federal special education requirements, based on the agency's most recent compliance review of the district's special education programs; and

(6)  assistance in complying with state laws and rules.

SECTION 2.  The heading to Section 28.0021, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0021.  PERSONAL FINANCIAL LITERACY AND CAREER SKILLS.

SECTION 3.  Section 28.0021, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

(b)  Each school district and each open-enrollment charter school that offers a high school program shall provide a [~~an elective~~] course in personal financial literacy and career skills that meets the requirements for [~~a one-half elective~~] credit under Section 28.025, using materials approved by the State Board of Education. The course may be offered as a distinct course in personal financial literacy and career skills or as an elective course or existing course that includes instruction in personal financial literacy and career skills sufficient to meet the requirements for one-half credit under Section 28.025(b-1)(9). The instruction in personal financial literacy and career skills must include instruction on:

(1)  completing the application for federal student aid provided by the United States Department of Education;

(2)  the financial consequences of failing to make timely student loan payments;

(3)  the effect of student loan debt on a person's finances;

(4)  the circumstances in which student loans are dischargeable in bankruptcy;

(5)  completing and filing an income tax return;

(6)  managing a credit score;

(7)  managing and paying down a mortgage;

(8)  creating a resume; and

(9)  preparing for a job interview.

(c)  In fulfilling the requirement to provide financial literacy and career skills instruction under this section, a school district or open-enrollment charter school may use an existing state, federal, private, or nonprofit program that provides students without charge the instruction described under this section.

SECTION 4.  Section 28.0024(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school may establish a school-based savings program to facilitate increased awareness of the importance of saving for higher education and facilitate personal financial literacy and career skills instruction. A district or school may offer the program in conjunction with a personal financial literacy and career skills course under Section 28.0021.

SECTION 5.  Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, is amended 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, 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)  four and one-half [~~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); and

(9)  at least one-half credit in personal financial literacy and career skills under Section 28.0021.

SECTION 6.  Section 29.917(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  From funds appropriated for the purpose, the commissioner may award grants to organizations that provide volunteers to teach classroom or after-school programs to enhance:

(1)  college readiness;

(2)  workforce readiness;

(3)  dropout prevention; or

(4)  personal financial literacy and career skills.

SECTION 7.  Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to students entering the ninth grade during the 2021-2022 school year or a later school year. For students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2021-2022 school year, Section 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as that section existed before amendment by this Act, applies, and that section is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 8.  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, 2021.