

By: Gates

H.B. No. 2554

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of joint vocational school districts
3 to provide eligible high school students with vocational and
4 educational training under a plan for the issuance of a high school
5 diploma, the funding of those districts under the foundation school
6 program, and the operation of certain vocational education charter
7 programs.

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

9 ARTICLE 1. JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

10 SECTION 1.001. Subtitle C, Title 2, Education Code, is
11 amended by adding Chapter 12B to read as follows:

12 CHAPTER 12B. JOINT VOCATIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICTS

13 Sec. 12B.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

14 (1) "Board" means the State Board of Education.

15 (2) "Member district" means a school district that has
16 formed a joint vocational school district under this chapter with
17 one or more other school districts.

18 Sec. 12B.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of a joint vocational
19 school district authorized under this chapter is to provide public
20 education to high school students whose educational needs are
21 better served by focused vocational education and training.

22 Sec. 12B.003. AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH JOINT VOCATIONAL
23 SCHOOL DISTRICT. (a) On the petition of the board of trustees of
24 two or more school districts, the board shall establish a joint

1 vocational school district to provide vocational education and
2 training to eligible high school students.

3 (b) A petition under this section may be joined by a
4 municipality or county if:

5 (1) the board of trustees of each member district
6 votes to approve the participation of the municipality or county;
7 and

8 (2) the governing body of each municipality or county
9 votes to approve participation in the joint vocational school
10 district.

11 (c) The board by rule may impose duties or limitations on
12 the establishment of joint vocational school districts under this
13 chapter as necessary to ensure the promotion of the purpose
14 provided under Section 12B.002.

15 (d) The board shall grant to joint vocational school
16 districts the right to share in the available school fund
17 apportionment and other privileges as are granted to school
18 districts.

19 Sec. 12B.004. GOVERNANCE. (a) A joint vocational school
20 district is governed by a board of trustees appointed as provided by
21 this section. The board of trustees shall execute the powers and
22 duties provided under Section 12B.005.

23 (b) Subject to Subsection (c), a joint vocational school
24 district is governed by a board of trustees composed of seven
25 members appointed under an agreement between the board of trustees
26 of each member district and, if applicable, the governing body of
27 each municipality or county that participates in the petition to

1 establish the joint vocational school district. The board of
2 trustees shall include:

3 (1) at least:

4 (A) one trustee who serves as a trustee of the
5 board of trustees of each member district; and

6 (B) one trustee appointed by the governing body
7 of each participating municipality or county; and

8 (2) for any remaining trustee positions, individuals
9 with:

10 (A) relevant experience or knowledge concerning
11 regional and statewide labor needs; and

12 (B) an understanding of the skills, training, and
13 education required for current and future employment opportunities
14 involving vocational skills.

15 (c) If a joint vocational school district is established by
16 seven or more member districts and participating municipalities or
17 counties, the agreement entered into under Subsection (b) must
18 provide for the appointment of:

19 (1) not more than one trustee who serves as a trustee
20 of the board of trustees of each member district; and

21 (2) not more than one trustee appointed by the
22 governing body of each participating municipality or county.

23 (d) Trustees appointed under this section shall serve
24 staggered terms of three years in accordance with the agreement
25 under Subsection (b) entered into by each member district and each
26 participating municipality or county. If a trustee vacates a term
27 of office before the term expires, a new trustee shall be appointed

1 by the member district or participating municipality or county that
2 appointed the trustee who is vacating.

3 (e) The board of trustees of a joint vocational school
4 district shall annually elect a chair to preside over meetings of
5 the board of trustees and execute powers and duties assigned to the
6 chair by the board of trustees.

7 Sec. 12B.005. POWERS AND DUTIES OF BOARD OF TRUSTEES;
8 SUPERINTENDENT. (a) The board of trustees of a joint vocational
9 school district shall employ a superintendent to exercise the
10 powers and duties of the district.

11 (b) The board of trustees of a joint vocational school
12 district shall:

13 (1) comply with Section 11.0621 in conducting
14 meetings;

15 (2) establish working relationships with other public
16 entities to increase the effective use of community resources and
17 serve the needs of the students of the joint vocational school
18 district;

19 (3) adopt a vision statement and comprehensive set of
20 goals for the joint vocational school district;

21 (4) adopt a student code of conduct and other policies
22 necessary for the operation of the joint vocational school
23 district;

24 (5) ensure the joint vocational school district's
25 superintendent is accountable for achieving performance results
26 under the goals adopted under Subdivision (3);

27 (6) adopt an annual budget for the joint vocational

1 school district;

2 (7) monitor the joint vocational school district's
3 finances to ensure the superintendent is properly maintaining
4 financial procedures and records;

5 (8) ensure the fiscal accounts of the joint vocational
6 school district are audited annually;

7 (9) provide to each member district and each
8 participating municipality or county and the public an end-of-year
9 financial report for the joint vocational school district; and

10 (10) carry out duties applicable to a joint vocational
11 school district provided under any other law.

12 (c) The board of trustees of a joint vocational school
13 district may, in the name of the district:

14 (1) enter contracts;

15 (2) acquire and hold real and personal property;

16 (3) sue and be sued; and

17 (4) receive gifts, grants, and donations of money or
18 other property.

19 Sec. 12B.006. APPLICABILITY OF OPEN MEETINGS AND PUBLIC
20 INFORMATION LAWS. (a) With respect to the operation of a joint
21 vocational school district, the board of trustees of the district
22 is considered to be a governmental body for purposes of Chapters 551
23 and 552, Government Code.

24 (b) With respect to the operation of a joint vocational
25 school district, any requirement in Chapter 551 or 552, Government
26 Code, or another law that concerns open meetings or the
27 availability of information, that applies to a school district, the

1 board of trustees of a school district, or public school students
2 applies to the joint vocational school district, the board of
3 trustees of the joint vocational school district, or students
4 enrolled in the joint vocational school district.

5 Sec. 12B.007. APPLICABILITY OF LAWS RELATING TO LOCAL
6 GOVERNMENT RECORDS. (a) With respect to the operation of a joint
7 vocational school district, the district is considered to be a
8 local government for purposes of Subtitle C, Title 6, Local
9 Government Code, and Subchapter J, Chapter 441, Government Code.

10 (b) Records of a joint vocational school are government
11 records for all purposes under state law.

12 (c) Any requirement in Subtitle C, Title 6, Local Government
13 Code, or Subchapter J, Chapter 441, Government Code, that applies
14 to a school district, the board of trustees of a school district, or
15 an officer or employee of a school district applies to a joint
16 vocational school district, the board of trustees of the joint
17 vocational school district, or an officer or employee of a joint
18 vocational school district.

19 Sec. 12B.008. APPLICABILITY OF LAWS RELATING TO PUBLIC
20 PURCHASING AND CONTRACTING. (a) A joint vocational school
21 district is considered to be:

22 (1) a governmental entity for purposes of:

23 (A) Subchapter D, Chapter 2252, Government Code;

24 and

25 (B) Subchapter B, Chapter 271, Local Government
26 Code;

27 (2) a political subdivision for purposes of Subchapter

1 A, Chapter 2254, Government Code; and

2 (3) a local government for purposes of Sections
3 2256.009-2256.016, Government Code.

4 (b) A requirement in a law listed in this section that
5 applies to a school district or the board of trustees of a school
6 district applies to a joint vocational school district or the board
7 of trustees of a joint vocational school district.

8 Sec. 12B.009. STATE FUNDING. (a) A joint vocational school
9 district is entitled to receive funding under Chapter 48 equal to
10 the amount of funding per student in weighted average daily
11 attendance, excluding the adjustment under Section 48.052, the
12 funding under Sections 48.101, 48.106, 48.111, and 48.112, and
13 enrichment funding under Section 48.202(a), to which the joint
14 vocational school district would be entitled under Chapter 48 if
15 the joint vocational school district were a school district without
16 a tier one local share under Section 48.266.

17 (b) In determining funding for a joint vocational school
18 district under Subsection (a), the amount of the allotment under
19 Section 48.102 is based solely on the basic allotment to which the
20 joint vocational school district is entitled and does not include
21 any amount based on the allotment under Section 48.101.

22 (c) In addition to the funding provided by Subsection (a), a
23 joint vocational school district is entitled to receive an
24 allotment per student in average daily attendance in an amount
25 equal to the difference between:

26 (1) the product of:

27 (A) the quotient of:

1 (i) the total amount of funding provided to
2 eligible school districts under Section 48.101(b) or (c); and

3 (ii) the total number of students in
4 average daily attendance in school districts that receive an
5 allotment under Section 48.101(b) or (c); and

6 (B) the sum of one and the quotient of:

7 (i) the total number of students in average
8 daily attendance in school districts that receive an allotment
9 under Section 48.101(b) or (c); and

10 (ii) the total number of students in
11 average daily attendance in school districts statewide; and

12 (2) \$125.

13 (d) In addition to the funding provided by Subsections (a)
14 and (c), a joint vocational school district is entitled to receive
15 enrichment funding under Section 48.202 based on the state average
16 tax effort.

17 (e) In addition to the funding provided by Subsections (a),
18 (c), and (d), a joint vocational school district is entitled to
19 receive funding under Sections 48.110 and 48.112 and Subchapter D,
20 Chapter 48, if the joint vocational school district would be
21 entitled to the funding if the joint vocational school district
22 were a school district.

23 (f) In addition to other amounts provided by this section, a
24 joint vocational school district is entitled to receive funding per
25 student in average daily attendance in an amount equal to the
26 guaranteed level of state and local funds per student per cent of
27 tax effort under Section 46.032(a) multiplied by the lesser of:

1 (1) the state average interest and sinking fund tax
2 rate imposed by school districts for the current year; or

3 (2) a rate that would result in a total amount to which
4 school districts are entitled for the current year.

5 (g) A joint vocational school district is entitled to funds
6 that are available to school districts from the agency or the
7 commissioner in the form of grants or other discretionary funding
8 unless the statute authorizing the funding explicitly provides that
9 joint vocational school districts are not entitled to the funding.

10 (h) The commissioner may adopt rules to provide and account
11 for state funding of joint vocational school districts under this
12 section.

13 Sec. 12B.010. FACILITIES. Each member district and the
14 board of trustees of a joint vocational school district may:

15 (1) make provisions for adequate facilities for use by
16 the joint vocational school district;

17 (2) individually or collectively lease, purchase,
18 finance, construct, or rehabilitate physical facilities
19 appropriate to the needs of the joint vocational school district;

20 (3) lease district facilities to the joint vocational
21 school district for administrative and instructional purposes; and

22 (4) solicit, accept, and administer gifts, grants, or
23 donations of any kind and from any source for facilities and
24 equipment.

25 Sec. 12B.011. DESIGNATION AS CHARTER DISTRICT FOR PURPOSES
26 OF BOND GUARANTEE. (a) On the application of the board of trustees
27 of a joint vocational school district, the commissioner shall grant

1 designation as a charter district to a joint vocational school
2 district that meets financial standards adopted by the
3 commissioner. The financial standards must require the district to
4 have an investment grade credit rating as specified by Section
5 45.0541.

6 (b) A joint vocational school district that is designated as
7 a charter district may apply for bonds issued under Chapter 53,
8 including refunding and refinanced bonds, to be guaranteed by the
9 permanent school fund under Chapter 45.

10 Sec. 12B.012. ENROLLMENT ELIGIBILITY. A student is
11 eligible to attend school in a joint vocational school district if:

12 (1) the joint vocational school district has received
13 the form indicating informed consent for the student under Section
14 12B.013; and

15 (2) the student:

16 (A) attends a campus of a member district and has
17 completed the student's 10th grade year;

18 (B) does not attend school in a member district
19 but attends a public or private high school in this state, has
20 earned 10 or more high school credits, and has been administered any
21 assessment instruments required under applicable federal law to be
22 administered to students in grades 9 and 10; or

23 (C) is not enrolled in a public or private high
24 school in this state but meets minimum requirements established
25 under rule of the board for the enrollment of those students in a
26 joint vocational school district.

27 Sec. 12B.013. INFORMED CONSENT. (a) Before a student may

1 enroll in a joint vocational school district, the student and the
2 student's parent, guardian, or other person standing in parental
3 relation to the student must be advised by a school counselor of the
4 school the student attends or of the joint vocational school
5 district concerning:

6 (1) specific benefits of graduating under the
7 foundation high school program established under Section 28.025;

8 (2) specific benefits of graduating under a vocational
9 education program with a diploma and earning industry-recognized
10 credentials through the joint vocational school district; and

11 (3) the differences between the curriculum
12 requirements for obtaining a diploma at a joint vocational school
13 district and the curriculum requirements for obtaining a diploma
14 under the foundation high school program.

15 (b) After receiving the required counseling described by
16 Subsection (a), the student's parent, guardian, or other person
17 standing in parental relation to the student may provide written
18 permission for the student to enroll in the joint vocational school
19 district, on a form adopted by the agency, to the school counselor.
20 If the school counselor is not employed by the joint vocational
21 school district, the person shall forward the form indicating
22 informed consent for the student to the joint vocational school
23 district at which the student intends to enroll.

24 Sec. 12B.014. COMPETITIONS. (a) Subject to Subsection
25 (b), a student enrolled in a joint vocational school district may
26 participate in:

27 (1) a competition or other activity sanctioned or

1 conducted by the University Interscholastic League as if the
2 student attends a campus in the school district the student would
3 otherwise be zoned to attend; and

4 (2) an academic competition or nonathletic activity
5 sanctioned or conducted by the University Interscholastic League,
6 if the competition or activity is offered through the joint
7 vocational school district.

8 (b) If a student participates in nonathletic competitions
9 and activities under Subsection (a)(2), the student may participate
10 in athletic competitions and activities only under Subsection
11 (a)(1).

12 Sec. 12B.015. REMOVAL AND EXPULSION OF STUDENTS. (a) The
13 board of trustees of a joint vocational school district shall adopt
14 a code of conduct for the district and each campus of the district.
15 In addition to establishing standards for behavior, the code of
16 conduct shall outline generally the types of prohibited behaviors
17 and the possible consequences of the behavior. The code of conduct
18 shall also outline the school's due process procedures with respect
19 to expulsion. Notwithstanding any other law, a decision of the
20 board of trustees of a joint vocational school district with
21 respect to actions taken under the code of conduct is final and may
22 not be appealed.

23 (b) A joint vocational school district may not expel a
24 student for a reason that is not authorized by Section 37.007 or
25 specified in the school's code of conduct as conduct that may result
26 in expulsion.

27 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, Section 37.002 is not

1 applicable to a joint vocational school district unless the board
2 of trustees of the district determines it is applicable.

3 Sec. 12B.016. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION PROGRAM. (a) Each
4 joint vocational school district established under this chapter
5 shall offer students who enroll in the district a vocational
6 education program that is aligned with:

7 (1) industry-recognized credentials and certificates
8 included in the inventory required by Section 29.189; or

9 (2) industry-defined and industry-recognized skill
10 standards developed under Section 2308.109, Government Code.

11 (b) The board shall establish minimum curriculum
12 requirements for a vocational education program under this section.
13 In providing curriculum requirements, the board may not require the
14 successful completion of more than 12 credits for graduation.

15 (c) A joint vocational school district may require the
16 completion of additional credits that are not included in the
17 minimum curriculum requirements established by the board, as
18 requirements for graduation and the issuance of a diploma under a
19 vocational education program.

20 (d) In providing the minimum curriculum requirements under
21 Subsection (b), the board shall require one-half credit in a course
22 that provides instruction in the basic knowledge and skills
23 necessary to:

24 (1) successfully run an independent business; and

25 (2) develop entrepreneurship.

26 (e) The board by rule may provide curriculum standards for
27 the course described by Subsection (d).

1 (f) In offering a vocational education program under this
2 section, a joint vocational school district may form partnerships
3 between the district and public junior colleges, public technical
4 institutes, public state colleges, and any other public
5 postsecondary institutions in this state offering academic or
6 technical education or vocational training under a certificate
7 program or an associate degree program.

8 (g) A joint vocational school district may use state funding
9 received under Section 12B.009 that is available for the purpose to
10 pay tuition costs for district students receiving academic or
11 technical education or vocational training from a college or
12 institution under a partnership entered into under Subsection (f).

13 Sec. 12B.017. VOCATIONAL HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA.
14 Notwithstanding any other law, agency rule, or district policy, a
15 student who successfully completes the course requirements for a
16 vocational school program is entitled to receive a high school
17 diploma from the joint vocational school district in accordance
18 with commissioner rules concerning high school graduation
19 requirements.

20 Sec. 12B.018. ASSESSMENT INSTRUMENTS. (a) A joint
21 vocational school district may adopt and administer assessment
22 instruments necessary for a student enrolled in the district to
23 earn an industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate.

24 (b) Notwithstanding any other law, the commissioner may not
25 require that a student enrolled in a joint vocational school
26 district be administered an assessment instrument under Section
27 39.023 that is not required to be administered to the student under

1 federal law.

2 (c) The commissioner may not waive the application of
3 Subsection (b) under Section 7.056 or any other law. This
4 subsection does not prohibit the commissioner from waiving the
5 administration of assessment instruments otherwise required to be
6 administered to students under federal law, in accordance with
7 waiver authority granted to the commissioner by the United States
8 Department of Education.

9 Sec. 12B.019. EXAM SUBSIDY. A student enrolled in a joint
10 vocational school district is entitled to an exam subsidy for an
11 exam administered under Section 12B.018 that qualifies the student
12 for an industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate.

13 Sec. 12B.020. ACHIEVEMENT INDICATORS. (a) The
14 commissioner shall adopt a set of achievement indicators for joint
15 vocational school districts based on recommendations provided by
16 the Texas Workforce Investment Council.

17 (b) The achievement indicators adopted by the commissioner
18 must measure outcomes for joint vocational school districts with
19 respect to:

20 (1) preparing students for success in:

21 (A) achieving industry-recognized licenses,
22 credentials, and certificates;

23 (B) postsecondary occupational training
24 programs; and

25 (C) entering the workforce;

26 (2) reducing outcome differentials among students
27 from different racial and ethnic groups and socioeconomic

1 backgrounds; and

2 (3) informing parents and employers regarding the
3 performance of joint vocational school districts and students who
4 attended a joint vocational school district.

5 (c) Each joint vocational school district shall submit to
6 the commissioner all relevant information the commissioner
7 determines necessary to evaluate the joint vocational school
8 district based on the achievement indicators adopted under this
9 section.

10 (d) The commissioner shall annually publish a report on the
11 performance of joint vocational school districts based on the
12 achievement indicators.

13 Sec. 12B.021. MINIMUM INSTRUCTOR QUALIFICATIONS. (a) A
14 person employed by a joint vocational school district as an
15 instructor must have demonstrated subject matter expertise related
16 to the subject taught, including:

- 17 (1) professional work experience;
18 (2) formal training and education;
19 (3) holding a relevant, active, industry-recognized
20 license, credential, or certificate; or
21 (4) any combination of Subdivisions (1), (2), and (3).

22 (b) A person employed by a joint vocational school district
23 as an instructor must have received at least 20 hours of classroom
24 management training as determined by the board of trustees of the
25 joint vocational school district.

26 Sec. 12B.022. REQUIREMENTS FOR EMPLOYMENT OF CERTAIN
27 EMPLOYEES. A person may not be employed by or serve as a teacher,

1 librarian, educational aide, administrator, or school counselor at
2 a joint vocational school district campus unless:

3 (1) the person has been approved by the agency
4 following a review of the person's national criminal history record
5 information as provided by Section 22.0832; and

6 (2) the school has confirmed that the person is not
7 included in the registry under Section 22.092.

8 Sec. 12B.023. MEMBERSHIP IN TEACHER RETIREMENT SYSTEM OF
9 TEXAS. (a) An employee of a joint vocational school district who
10 qualifies for membership in the Teacher Retirement System of Texas
11 shall be covered under the system to the same extent a qualified
12 employee of a school district is covered.

13 (b) For each employee covered under the system, the joint
14 vocational school district is responsible for making any
15 contribution that otherwise would be the legal responsibility of
16 the school district, and the state is responsible for making
17 contributions to the same extent it would be legally responsible if
18 the employee were a school district employee.

19 Sec. 12B.024. BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PARTNERSHIPS. (a) A
20 joint vocational school district may partner with private sector
21 businesses to ensure students have sufficient opportunities to
22 participate in apprenticeship training programs and other
23 workplace-based education.

24 (b) A joint vocational school district may sponsor
25 apprenticeship training programs under Chapter 133 in the same
26 manner as a school district.

27 SECTION 1.02. Sections 48.110(c), (d), (e), (f), and (h),

1 Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

2 (c) Each year, the commissioner shall determine for each
3 school district and each joint vocational school district the
4 minimum number of annual graduates in each cohort described by
5 Subsection (b) who would have to demonstrate college, career, or
6 military readiness as described by Subsection (f) in order for the
7 district to achieve a percentage of college, career, or military
8 readiness for that cohort equal to the threshold percentage
9 established for that cohort under Subsection (b).

10 (d) For each annual graduate in a cohort described by
11 Subsection (b) who demonstrates college, career, or military
12 readiness as described by Subsection (f) in excess of the minimum
13 number of students determined for the applicable district cohort
14 under Subsection (c), a school district or joint vocational school
15 district is entitled to an annual outcomes bonus of:

16 (1) if the annual graduate is educationally
17 disadvantaged, \$5,000;

18 (2) if the annual graduate is not educationally
19 disadvantaged, \$3,000; and

20 (3) if the annual graduate is enrolled in a special
21 education program under Subchapter A, Chapter 29, \$2,000,
22 regardless of whether the annual graduate is educationally
23 disadvantaged.

24 (e) A school district or joint vocational school district is
25 entitled to an outcomes bonus under each subdivision of Subsection
26 (d) for which an annual graduate qualifies.

27 (f) For purposes of this section, an annual graduate

1 demonstrates:

2 (1) college readiness if the annual graduate:

3 (A) achieves college readiness standards used
4 for accountability purposes under Chapter 39 on the ACT, the SAT, or
5 an assessment instrument designated by the Texas Higher Education
6 Coordinating Board under Section 51.334; and

7 (B) during a time period established by
8 commissioner rule, enrolls at a postsecondary educational
9 institution;

10 (2) career readiness if:

11 (A) the annual graduate:

12 (i) [~~(A)~~] achieves college readiness
13 standards used for accountability purposes under Chapter 39 on the
14 ACT, the SAT, or an assessment instrument designated by the Texas
15 Higher Education Coordinating Board under Section 51.334; and

16 (ii) [~~(B)~~] during a time period established
17 by commissioner rule, earns an industry-accepted certificate; or

18 (B) the annual graduate earns an
19 industry-recognized license, credential, or certificate under a
20 vocational education program provided under Chapter 12B; and

21 (3) military readiness if the annual graduate:

22 (A) achieves a passing score set by the
23 applicable military branch on the Armed Services Vocational
24 Aptitude Battery; and

25 (B) during a time period established by
26 commissioner rule, enlists in the armed forces of the United
27 States.

1 (h) On application by a school district, the commissioner
2 may allow annual graduates from the district to satisfy the
3 requirement for demonstrating career readiness under Subsection
4 (f)(2)(A)(ii) [~~(f)(2)(B)~~] by successfully completing a coherent
5 sequence of courses required to obtain an industry-accepted
6 certificate. The district must demonstrate in the application that
7 the district is unable to provide sufficient courses or programs to
8 enable students enrolled at the district to earn an
9 industry-accepted certificate within the time period established
10 by the commissioner under Subsection (f)(2)(A)(ii) [~~(f)(2)(B)~~].
11 The commissioner by rule shall provide the criteria required for an
12 application under this subsection.

13 ARTICLE 2. VOCATIONAL EDUCATION CHARTER PROGRAMS

14 SECTION 2.01. Section 12.056, Education Code, is amended by
15 adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

16 (c) Notwithstanding Subsection (b), requirements related to
17 high school graduation under Section 28.025 do not apply to the
18 issuance of a diploma under a vocational education program for
19 which a charter is granted under this subchapter if the program is
20 administered in the same manner as a vocational education program
21 under Section 12B.016 and in accordance with any applicable rules
22 of the State Board of Education regarding those programs.

23 ARTICLE 3. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS

24 SECTION 3.01. Section 21.006(a)(2), Education Code, is
25 amended to read as follows:

- 26 (2) "Other charter entity" means:
27 (A) a school district operating under a home-rule

1 school district charter adopted under Subchapter B, Chapter 12;

2 (B) a campus or campus program operating under a
3 charter granted under Subchapter C, Chapter 12; ~~and~~

4 (C) an entity that contracts to partner with a
5 school district under Section 11.174(a)(2) to operate a district
6 campus under a charter granted to the entity by the district under
7 Subchapter C, Chapter 12; and

8 (D) a joint vocational school district operating
9 under Chapter 12B.

10 SECTION 3.02. Section 21.009(a), Education Code, is amended
11 to read as follows:

12 (a) An applicant for a position described by Section
13 21.003(a) or (b) with a school district, joint vocational school
14 district, district of innovation, open-enrollment charter school,
15 private school, regional education service center, or shared
16 services arrangement must submit, using a form adopted by the
17 agency, a pre-employment affidavit disclosing whether the
18 applicant has ever been charged with, adjudicated for, or convicted
19 of having an inappropriate relationship with a minor.

20 SECTION 3.03. Section 28.016(b), Education Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (b) The instruction must include information regarding:

23 (1) the creation of a high school personal graduation
24 plan under Section 28.02121;

25 (2) the distinguished level of achievement described
26 by Section 28.025(b-15);

27 (3) each endorsement described by Section

1 28.025(c-1);

2 (4) college readiness standards; ~~and~~

3 (5) potential career choices and the education needed
4 to enter those careers; and

5 (6) programs of study offered through a joint
6 vocational school district, if the district is a member district of
7 a joint vocational school district established under Chapter 12B.

8 SECTION 3.04. Section 29.182(b), Education Code, is amended
9 to read as follows:

10 (b) The state plan must include procedures designed to
11 ensure that:

12 (1) all secondary and postsecondary students have the
13 opportunity to participate in career and technology education
14 programs;

15 (2) the state complies with requirements for
16 supplemental federal career and technology education funding;

17 (3) career and technology education is established as
18 a part of the total education system of this state and constitutes
19 an option for student learning that provides a rigorous course of
20 study consistent with the required curriculum under Section 28.002
21 and under which a student may receive specific education in a career
22 and technology program that:

23 (A) incorporates competencies leading to
24 academic and technical skill attainment;

25 (B) leads to:

26 (i) an industry-recognized license,
27 credential, or certificate; or

1 (ii) at the postsecondary level, an
2 associate or baccalaureate degree;

3 (C) includes opportunities for students to earn
4 college credit for coursework; ~~and~~

5 (D) includes, as an integral part of the program,
6 participation by students and teachers in activities of career and
7 technical student organizations supported by the agency and the
8 State Board of Education; and

9 (E) includes the opportunity for students to
10 participate in focused vocational education through a vocational
11 education program offered by a joint vocational school district;
12 and

13 (4) a school district provides, to the greatest extent
14 possible, to a student participating in a career and technology
15 education program opportunities to enroll in dual credit courses
16 designed to lead to a degree, license, or certification as part of
17 the program.

18 SECTION 3.05. Section 48.1101(a), Education Code, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 (a) The agency shall conduct a study on alternative career
21 readiness measures for small and rural school districts to
22 determine if annual graduates demonstrate career readiness under
23 Section 48.110(f)(2)(A)(ii) [~~48.110(f)(2)(B)~~].

24 ARTICLE 4. TRANSITION; EFFECTIVE DATE

25 SECTION 4.01. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
26 school year.

27 SECTION 4.02. This Act takes effect immediately if it

H.B. No. 2554

1 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
2 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
3 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
4 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.