

1-1 By: Wilson, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Buckingham) H.B. No. 2681
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 17, 2021;
 1-3 May 17, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 24, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable
 1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0;
 1-6 May 24, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8 Taylor	X			
1-9 Lucio			X	
1-10 Bettencourt	X			
1-11 Hall	X			
1-12 Hughes	X			
1-13 Menéndez	X			
1-14 Paxton	X			
1-15 Perry	X			
1-16 Powell	X			
1-17 Schwertner	X			
1-18 West			X	

1-20 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 2681 By: Powell

1-21 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-22 AN ACT

1-23 relating to public school elective courses providing academic study
 1-24 of the Bible offered to certain students.

1-25 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-26 SECTION 1. Sections 28.011(a) and (f), Education Code, are
 1-27 amended to read as follows:

1-28 (a) A school district may offer to students in grade six
 1-29 [~~nine~~] or above:

1-30 (1) an elective course on the Hebrew Scriptures (Old
 1-31 Testament) and its impact and an elective course on the New
 1-32 Testament and its impact; or

1-33 (2) an elective course that combines the courses
 1-34 described by Subdivision (1).

1-35 (f) A teacher of a course offered under this section must
 1-36 hold a certificate [~~minimum of a High School Composite~~
 1-37 ~~Certification~~] in language arts, social studies, or history that
 1-38 qualifies the teacher to teach at the grade level at which the
 1-39 course is offered with, where practical, a minor in religion or
 1-40 biblical studies. A teacher selected to teach a course under this
 1-41 section shall successfully complete staff development training
 1-42 outlined in Section 21.459. A course under this section may [~~only~~]
 1-43 be taught only by a teacher who has successfully completed training
 1-44 under Section 21.459.

1-45 SECTION 2. The State Board of Education is required to
 1-46 implement Sections 28.011(a) and (f), Education Code, as amended by
 1-47 this Act, only if the legislature appropriates money specifically
 1-48 for that purpose. If the legislature does not appropriate money
 1-49 specifically for that purpose, the State Board of Education may,
 1-50 but is not required to, implement Sections 28.011(a) and (f),
 1-51 Education Code, as amended by this Act, using other appropriations
 1-52 available for the purpose.

1-53 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2021-2022
 1-54 school year.

1-55 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
 1-56 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
 1-57 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
 1-58 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
 1-59 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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