89R7722 GP-F

By:  King H.B. No. 27

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

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

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.002(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Each school district that offers kindergarten through grade 12 shall offer, as a required curriculum:

(1)  a foundation curriculum that includes:

(A)  English language arts;

(B)  mathematics;

(C)  science; and

(D)  social studies, consisting of Texas, United States, and world history, government, personal financial literacy, economics, with emphasis on the free enterprise system and its benefits, and geography; and

(2)  an enrichment curriculum that includes:

(A)  to the extent possible, languages other than English;

(B)  health, with emphasis on:

(i)  physical health, including the importance of proper nutrition and exercise;

(ii)  mental health, including instruction about mental health conditions, substance abuse, skills to manage emotions, establishing and maintaining positive relationships, and responsible decision-making; and

(iii)  suicide prevention, including recognizing suicide-related risk factors and warning signs;

(C)  physical education;

(D)  fine arts;

(E)  career and technology education;

(F)  technology applications; and

(G)  religious literature, including the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament) and New Testament, and its impact on history and literature [~~; and~~

[~~(H)  personal financial literacy~~].

SECTION 2.  Section 28.0021(b), Education Code, is amended 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 that meets the requirements for a one-half social studies [~~elective~~] credit under Section 28.025, using materials approved by the State Board of Education. The instruction in personal financial literacy must include instruction on completing the application for federal student aid provided by the United States Department of Education. In fulfilling the requirement to provide financial literacy 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 3.  Sections 28.025(b-1) and (b-23), Education Code, are 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 or~~] personal financial literacy [~~& economics~~], and one credit in economics, 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)  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).

(b-23)  The agency shall:

(1)  develop a list of free, open-source, and publicly available curricula that may be used by a school district to provide a personal financial literacy [~~& economics~~] course that satisfies the curriculum requirement under Subsection (b-1)(4); and

(2)  seek, accept, and spend any federal or private grant funds and gifts that are available for the purpose of providing a personal financial literacy [~~& economics~~] course as part of the foundation high school program.

SECTION 4.  Section 28.025(b-22), Education Code, is repealed.

SECTION 5.  Sections 28.0021(b) and 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as amended by this Act, apply only to students entering the ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year or a later school year. For students entering a grade above ninth grade during the 2025-2026 school year, Sections 28.0021(b) and 28.025(b-1), Education Code, as those sections existed before amendment by this Act, apply, and those sections are continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 6.  This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026 school year.

SECTION 7.  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, 2025.