

SENATE AMENDMENTS
2nd Printing

By: Gates, Buckley, Bell of Kaufman, H.B. No. 20
Longoria, Martinez Fischer, et al.

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.914 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.914. APPLIED SCIENCES PATHWAY PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

(1) "Certificate program" and "institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(2) "Program" means the Applied Sciences Pathway program established under this section.

(b) The commissioner shall establish and administer the Applied Sciences Pathway program to provide opportunities for students to concurrently earn high school diplomas and certificates from institutions of higher education.

(c) The commissioner shall approve for participation in the program partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and institutions of higher education to provide courses in a non-duplicative sequence of progressive achievement that lead to:

(1) a high school diploma; and
(2) completion of a certificate program with a successful job placement rate in high-wage, high-growth jobs in one of the following industries:

- 1 (A) plumbing and pipe fitting;
- 2 (B) electrical;
- 3 (C) welding;
- 4 (D) sheet metal;
- 5 (E) carpentry;
- 6 (F) masonry;
- 7 (G) diesel and heavy equipment;
- 8 (H) aviation maintenance;
- 9 (I) heating, ventilation, and air conditioning;
- 10 (J) construction management and inspection;
- 11 (K) mechanical and aerospace engineering;
- 12 (L) industrial maintenance and processes;
- 13 (M) robotics and automation;
- 14 (N) information technology and cybersecurity;
- 15 (O) oil and gas exploration and production;
- 16 (P) refining and chemical processes;
- 17 (Q) transportation distribution and logistics;
- 18 (R) manufacturing and industrial technology;
- 19 (S) electronics technology; or
- 20 (T) automotive technology.
- 21 (c-1) Beginning with the 2027-2028 school year, the
- 22 commissioner may revise the industries approved for purposes of
- 23 Subsection (c)(2) once every five years to reflect current labor
- 24 market trends.
- 25 (d) A partnership participating in the program must:
- 26 (1) enable the school district or open-enrollment
- 27 charter school to provide at least one course of study described by

Subsection (c) through a partnership with an institution of higher education under the program;

(2) provide for a course of study described by Subsection (c) that enables a participating student in grade level 11 or 12 to concurrently:

(A) enroll in a certificate program described by Subsection (c)(2) at the partnering institution of higher education under which the student may receive instruction from an instructor employed by the institution and any appropriate work-based learning opportunities from the institution and earn:

(i) a level one or level two certificate, as defined by the commissioner; or

(ii) another certificate approved by commissioner rule; and

(B) satisfy high school graduation requirements and receive a high school diploma;

(3) require the partnering school district or open-enrollment charter school to permit all district or school students in grade level 11 or 12 to enroll in a course of study provided under Subdivision (2);

(4) be governed by an articulation agreement between the partnering school district or open-enrollment charter school and institution of higher education; and

(5) meet any other requirements established by commissioner rule.

(e) The commissioner may approve the substitution of a credit in a subject area required for high school graduation under

Section 28.025 with a credit in a career and technology education course provided by an institution of higher education under the program that substantially covers the essential knowledge and skills of the course for which it is substituted. This subsection may not be construed to limit the number of substituted credits a student may earn while participating in the program.

(f) A career and technology education course authorized as a substitute credit under Subsection (e) may not count:

(1) for more than one credit toward the student's high school graduation requirements; or

(2) as a credit for more than one subject area.

(g) Time that a student spends participating in the program is counted as part of the minimum number of instructional hours required for a student to be considered a full-time student in average daily attendance for purposes of Section 48.005.

(h) This section may not be construed to:

(1) prevent a student's participation in career and technology education or dual credit courses before the student begins participating in the program; or

(2) authorize the commissioner to require approval by the commissioner for partnerships between school districts or open-enrollment charter schools and institutions of higher education for purposes other than the program, including partnerships to provide dual credit courses.

(i) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to administer the program.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2025-2026

1 school year.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

ADOPTED

MAY 29 2025

Letsy Law
Secretary of the Senate

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. 1

BY: *C. Schmitt*

Amend H.B. No. 20 (senate committee report) in SECTION 1 of the bill as follows:

(1) In added Section 29.914(d), Education Code (page 2, line 19), strike "commissioner" and substitute "Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board".

(2) Strike added Section 29.914(d)(2)(A)(ii), Education Code (page 2, lines 20 and 21), and substitute the following:

(ii) a credential recognized as a credential of value by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule and approved by the commissioner for purposes of the program; and

(3) In added Section 29.914(d)(4), Education Code (page 2, line 28), strike "articulation" and substitute "institutional".

(4) In added Section 29.914(d)(4), Education Code (page 2, line 30), between "education" and the underlined semicolon, insert "that meets the requirements for a dual credit partnership adopted by Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board rule".

(5) In added Section 29.914(e), Education Code (page 2, line 33), strike "The" and substitute "Except as provided by Subsection (e-1), the".

(6) Immediately following added Section 29.914(e), Education Code (page 2, between lines 40 and 41), insert the following:

(e-1) Before a student may earn substituted credit under Subsection (e) for a secondary-level course in a subject described by Section 28.025(b-1)(1), (2), (3), or (4), the student must perform satisfactorily on each end-of-course assessment instrument required for courses in the corresponding subject that precede the course for which the student seeks substituted credit in the

1 district's prescribed course sequence.

2 (7) Immediately following added Section 29.914(i),
3 Education Code (page 2, between lines 60 and 61), insert the
4 following:

5 (j) This section expires September 1, 2031.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 29, 2025

TO: Honorable Dustin Burrows, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB20 by Gates (Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.), **As Passed 2nd House**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

Local Government Impact

School districts and institutions of higher education that do not already have Applied Science programs would have startup and training costs to establish the required educational programs and partnerships.

Source Agencies: 701 Texas Education Agency, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 717 Texas Southern University, 719 Texas State Technical College System Administration, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University of Houston System Administration

LBB Staff: JMc, SD, NC, SL, JPE, FV, ASA

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 19, 2025

TO: Honorable Brandon Creighton, Chair, Senate Committee on Education K-16

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB20 by Gates (Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.), **As Engrossed**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

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Local Government Impact

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LBB Staff: JMc, NC, SL, JPE, FV, ASA

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 20, 2025

TO: Honorable Brad Buckley, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB20 by Gates (relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.), **Committee Report 1st House, Substituted**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

It is assumed that any costs associated with the bill could be absorbed using existing resources.

Local Government Impact

School districts and institutions of higher education that do not already have Applied Science programs would have startup and training costs to establish the required educational programs and partnerships.

Source Agencies: 701 Texas Education Agency, 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 717 Texas Southern University, 719 Texas State Technical College System Administration, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 758 Texas State University System, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 783 University of Houston System Administration

LBB Staff: JMc, JPE, SL, FV, ASA

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD

Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 89TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

March 4, 2025

TO: Honorable Brad Buckley, Chair, House Committee on Public Education

FROM: Jerry McGinty, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB20 by Gates (Relating to establishing the Applied Sciences Pathway program.), **As Introduced**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

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Local Government Impact

School districts and institutions of higher education that do not already have Applied Science programs would have startup and training costs to establish the required educational programs and partnerships.

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