

By: Miles

S.B. No. 1271

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a statewide online education and career advising tool and to a study and report on certain courses offered for college credit to public school students.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 28.0092 and 28.0093 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0092. ONLINE EDUCATION AND CAREER ADVISING TOOL.

(a) In this section, "institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) The agency shall develop and implement a statewide online education and career advising tool to assist children in making informed, meaningful, and attainable postsecondary and career plans.

(c) The online education and career advising tool must include:

(1) an individualized career pathway generator that assists a child in selecting a career and identifying the secondary and postsecondary courses the child should take to advance toward that career; and

(2) information regarding:

(A) any local, regional, or statewide articulation agreements regarding dual credit programs or the transfer of course credit between institutions of higher education;

1 (B) the postsecondary and career options
2 associated with each endorsement under Section 28.025(c-1),
3 including the dual credit courses related to each endorsement that
4 apply toward a certificate or degree program at an institution of
5 higher education;

6 (C) any stackable degree programs provided by an
7 institution of higher education through which a student may obtain
8 a series of credentials as the student progresses through the
9 program;

10 (D) existing and anticipated employment
11 opportunities statewide and in a child's community, aligned to
12 state and regional workforce needs;

13 (E) anticipated earnings in various careers;

14 (F) local, regional, and statewide career
15 training and certification programs, including the requirements,
16 costs, and available options for those programs; and

17 (G) the time and cost required for and other
18 expenses related to various postsecondary and career options.

19 (d) In developing and implementing the online education and
20 career advising tool, the agency shall consult with the Texas
21 Higher Education Coordinating Board and the Texas Workforce
22 Commission. On request by the agency, the coordinating board and
23 the commission shall provide to the agency any data maintained by
24 the coordinating board or commission that is necessary to develop
25 the tool.

26 Sec. 28.0093. STUDY ON CERTAIN COURSES OFFERED FOR COLLEGE
27 CREDIT. (a) In this section:

1 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
2 Education Coordinating Board.

3 (2) "Course offered for college credit" means an
4 advanced placement course, a dual credit course, or a career and
5 technical education course offered for college credit.

6 (b) The agency and coordinating board jointly shall conduct
7 a study on courses offered for college credit in the state.

8 (c) The study must evaluate:

9 (1) the level of rigor of the courses most commonly
10 offered for college credit to a student enrolled in a school
11 district; and

12 (2) potential incentives that may be developed to
13 encourage school districts and public institutions of higher
14 education to ensure that courses offered for college credit are of
15 high quality.

16 (d) Not later than September 1, 2020, the agency and
17 coordinating board jointly shall submit to the governor, lieutenant
18 governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and standing
19 legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over education a
20 report on the results of the study and any recommendations for
21 legislative or other action.

22 (e) This section expires September 1, 2021.

23 SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency shall develop and
24 implement the online education and career advising tool as provided
25 by Section 28.0092, Education Code, as added by this Act, according
26 to the following schedule:

27 (1) not later than September 1, 2018, an initial

1 version of the tool that incorporates as many elements required
2 under that section as feasible must be developed and implemented;
3 and

4 (2) not later than September 1, 2019, the full version
5 of the tool that incorporates all of the elements required under
6 that section must be developed and implemented.

7 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.