

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1611

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1611:

By: Martinez

C.S.H.B. No. 1611

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the exemption from the assessment requirements of the Texas Success Initiative for students who successfully complete certain college preparatory courses.

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

SECTION 1. Section 51.3062, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (q-2) and adding Subsections (q-3) and (q-4) to read as follows:

(q-2) A student who successfully completes a college preparatory course under Section 28.014 is exempt from the requirements of this section with respect to the content area of the course, provided that the student satisfies the requirements under Subsection (q-3). The exemption is effective for the two-year period following the date the student graduates from high school.

~~[The commissioner of higher education by rule shall establish the period for which an exemption under this subsection is valid.]~~ The exemption applies only at the institution of higher education that partners with the school district in which the student is enrolled to provide the course, except that the commissioner by rule may determine the manner in which the exemption may be applied to institutions of higher education other than the partnering institution.

(q-3) A student receiving an exemption under Subsection (q-2) must enroll in a college-level course in the exempted content

1 area during the student's first year of enrollment at an  
2 institution of higher education occurring after the student  
3 qualifies for the exemption. If the student earns a grade below a  
4 "C" for the course, the institution shall advise the student of  
5 non-course-based options for attaining college readiness, such as  
6 tutoring or accelerated learning.

7 (q-4) The board shall:

8 (1) collect and analyze data regarding the  
9 effectiveness of college preparatory courses provided under  
10 Section 28.014 in assisting students to become ready to perform  
11 college-level academic coursework, as measured by the rate at which  
12 students receiving an exemption under Subsection (q-2)  
13 successfully complete the course described by Subsection (q-3); and

14 (2) in November of each even-numbered year, submit a  
15 report on the board's findings to the governor, the lieutenant  
16 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the standing  
17 legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over higher  
18 education, and each institution of higher education and school  
19 district that offers a college preparatory course under Section  
20 28.014.

21 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies  
22 beginning with the assessment of entering undergraduate students at  
23 public institutions of higher education for the 2015 fall semester.  
24 The assessment of an entering undergraduate student for an academic  
25 term before that semester is covered by the law in effect before the  
26 effective date of this Act, and that law is continued in effect for  
27 that purpose.

1           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.