

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT FORM

Austin, Texas

5-25-13

Date

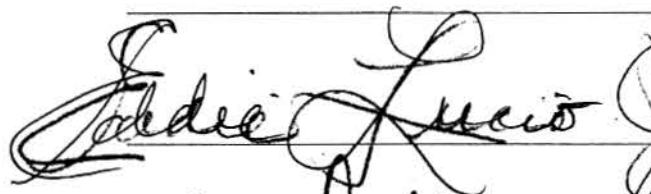
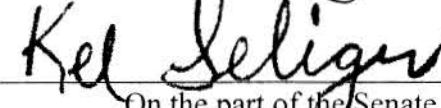
Honorable David Dewhurst
President of the Senate



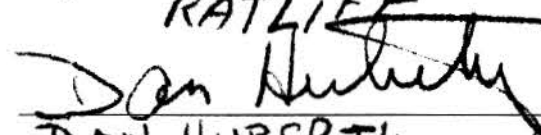
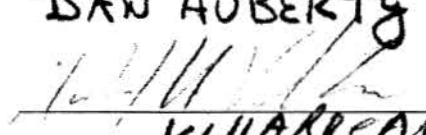
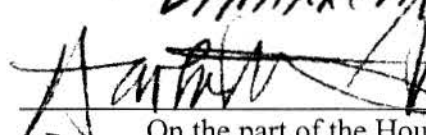
Honorable Joe Straus
Speaker of the House of Representatives

Sirs:

We, Your Conference Committee, appointed to adjust the differences between the Senate and the House of Representatives on HB 1926 have had the same under consideration, and beg to report it back with the recommendation that it do pass in the form and text hereto attached.


Glenn Hogue



Eddie Lucio Jr.

Kel Seliger
On the part of the Senate


Ken King

RATLIEF

DAN HUBERTY

VILLARREAL

On the part of the House
DUTTON

Note to Conference Committee Clerk:

Please type the names of the members of the Conference Committee under the lines provided for signature. Those members desiring to sign the report should sign each of the six copies. Attach a copy of the Conference Committee Report and a Section by Section side by side comparison to each of the six reporting forms. The original and two copies are filed in house of origin of the bill, and three copies in the other house.

CONFERENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

3rd Printing

H.B. No. 1926

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of the state virtual school network and
courses provided through other distance learning arrangements.

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

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031, Education Code, is amended by
amending Subsections (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections (c-1)
and (f) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [A] school
district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is
enrolled as a full-time student may not [unreasonably] deny the
request of a parent of a student to enroll the student in an
electronic course offered through the state virtual school network
under Chapter 30A.

(c) A [~~For purposes of Subsection (b), a~~] school district or
open-enrollment charter school may deny [~~is not considered to have~~
~~unreasonably denied~~] a request to enroll a student in an electronic
course if:

(1) [~~the district or school can demonstrate that the~~
~~course does not meet state standards or standards of the district or~~
~~school that are of equivalent rigor as the district's or school's~~
~~standards for the same course provided in a traditional classroom~~
~~setting,~~

[~~(2)~~] a student attempts to enroll in a course load
that [+]

1 ~~[(A)]~~ is inconsistent with the student's high
2 school graduation plan or requirements for college admission or
3 earning an industry certification;

4 (2) ~~or~~
5 ~~[(B) could reasonably be expected to negatively~~
6 ~~affect the student's performance on an assessment instrument~~
7 ~~administered under Section 39.023, or~~

8 ~~[(3)]~~ the student requests permission to enroll in an
9 electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the
10 enrollment period established by the school district or
11 open-enrollment charter school providing the course; or

12 (3) the district or school offers a substantially
13 similar course.

14 (c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
15 may decline to pay the cost for a student of more than three
16 yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any school
17 year. This subsection does not:

18 (1) limit the ability of the student to enroll in
19 additional electronic courses at the student's cost; or

20 (2) apply to a student enrolled in a full-time online
21 program that was operating on January 1, 2013.

22 (d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(2) ~~[(c)(3)]~~, a school
23 district or open-enrollment charter school that provides an
24 electronic course through the state virtual school network under
25 Chapter 30A shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the
26 enrollment of a student in the course under special circumstances.

27 (f) A school district or open-enrollment charter school

1 from which a parent of a student requests permission to enroll the
2 student in an electronic course offered through the state virtual
3 school network under Chapter 30A has discretion to select a course
4 provider approved by the network's administering authority for the
5 course in which the student will enroll based on factors including
6 the informed choice report in Section 30A.108(b).

7 SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
8 amended by adding Section 29.909 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 29.909. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES. (a) A school
10 district or open-enrollment charter school that provides a course
11 through distance learning and seeks to inform other districts or
12 schools of the availability of the course may submit information to
13 the agency regarding the course, including the number of positions
14 available for student enrollment in the course. The district or
15 school may submit updated information at the beginning of each
16 semester.

17 (b) The agency shall make information submitted under this
18 section available on the agency's Internet website.

19 (c) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement
20 this section, including rules governing student enrollment. The
21 commissioner may not adopt rules governing course pricing, and the
22 price for a course shall be determined by the school districts or
23 open-enrollment charter schools involved.

24 SECTION 3. Sections 30A.001(7) and (8), Education Code, are
25 amended to read as follows:

26 (7) "Course provider [~~Provider school district or~~
27 ~~school]~~" means:

(A) a school district or open-enrollment charter school that provides an electronic course through the state virtual school network to:

(i) students enrolled in that district or school; or

(ii) students enrolled in another school district or school; ~~or~~

(B) a public or private institution of higher education, nonprofit entity, or private entity that provides a course through the state virtual school network; or

(C) an entity that provides an electronic professional development course through the state virtual school network.

(8) "Public or private institution of higher education" means~~+~~

~~[(A)]~~ an institution of higher education, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1001 ~~[Section 61.003, or~~

~~[(B) a private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003].~~

SECTION 4. Section 30A.003, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30A.003. PROVISION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT OR INTERNET SERVICE. This chapter does not:

(1) require a school district, an open-enrollment charter school, a course provider ~~[school district or school]~~, or the state to provide a student with home computer equipment or Internet access for a course provided through the state virtual

1 school network; or

2 (2) prohibit a school district or open-enrollment
3 charter school from providing a student with home computer
4 equipment or Internet access for a course provided through the
5 state virtual school network.

6 SECTION 5. Section 30A.007, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as
8 follows:

9 (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
10 shall adopt a written policy that provides district or school
11 students with the opportunity to enroll in electronic courses
12 provided through the state virtual school network. The policy must
13 be consistent with the requirements imposed by Section 26.0031.

14 (a-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
15 shall, at least once per school year, send to a parent of each
16 district or school student enrolled at the middle or high school
17 level a copy of the policy adopted under Subsection (a). A district
18 or school may send the policy with any other information that the
19 district or school sends to a parent.

20 SECTION 6. Section 30A.056(a), Education Code, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 (a) Each contract between a course provider [~~school~~
23 ~~district, an open-enrollment charter school, or a public or private~~
24 ~~institution of higher education]~~ and the administering authority
25 must:

26 (1) provide that the administering authority may
27 cancel the contract without penalty if legislative authorization

1 for the course provider [~~district, school, or institution~~] to offer
2 an electronic course through the state virtual school network is
3 revoked; and

4 (2) be submitted to the commissioner.

5 SECTION 7. The heading to Section 30A.101, Education Code,
6 is amended to read as follows:

7 Sec. 30A.101. ELIGIBILITY TO ACT AS COURSE PROVIDER [~~SCHOOL~~
8 ~~DISTRICT OR SCHOOL~~].

9 SECTION 8. Section 30A.101, Education Code, is amended by
10 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read
11 as follows:

12 (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school is
13 eligible to act as a course provider [~~school district~~] under this
14 chapter only if the district or school is rated acceptable [~~or~~
15 ~~higher~~] under Section 39.054. An open-enrollment charter school
16 may serve as a course provider only:

17 (1) to a student within its service area; or

18 (2) to another student in the state:

19 (A) through an agreement with the school district
20 in which the student resides; or

21 (B) if the student receives educational services
22 under the supervision of a juvenile probation department, the Texas
23 Juvenile Justice Department, or the Texas Department of Criminal
24 Justice, through an agreement with the applicable agency.

25 (c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is
26 eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the
27 nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

1 (1) complies with all applicable federal and state
2 laws prohibiting discrimination;

3 (2) demonstrates financial solvency; and

4 (3) provides evidence of prior successful experience
5 offering online courses to middle or high school students, with
6 demonstrated student success in course completion and performance,
7 as determined by the commissioner.

8 (d) An entity other than a school district or
9 open-enrollment charter school is not authorized to award course
10 credit or a diploma for courses taken through the state virtual
11 school network.

12 SECTION 9. Section 30A.102, Education Code, is amended to
13 read as follows:

14 Sec. 30A.102. LISTING OF ELECTRONIC COURSES. (a) The
15 administering authority shall:

16 (1) publish the criteria required by Section 30A.103
17 for electronic courses that may be offered through the state
18 virtual school network;

19 (2) using the criteria required by Section 30A.103,
20 evaluate electronic courses submitted by a course provider [~~school~~
21 ~~district or school~~] to be offered through the network;

22 (3) create a list of electronic courses approved by
23 the administering authority; and

24 (4) publish in a prominent location on the network's
25 Internet website [~~provide public access to~~] the list of approved
26 electronic courses offered through the network and a detailed
27 description of the courses that complies with Section 30A.108.

(b) To ensure that a full range of electronic courses, including advanced placement courses, are offered to students in this state, the administering authority:

(1) shall create a list of those subjects and courses designated by the board under Subchapter A, Chapter 28, for which the board has identified essential knowledge and skills or for which the board has designated content requirements under Subchapter A, Chapter 28;

(2) shall enter into agreements with school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, ~~and~~ public or private institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities for the purpose of offering the courses through the state virtual school network; and

(3) may develop or authorize the development of additional electronic courses that:

(A) are needed to complete high school graduation requirements; and

(B) are not otherwise available through the state virtual school network.

(c) The administering authority shall develop a comprehensive course numbering system for all courses offered through the state virtual school network to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, consistent numbering of similar courses offered across all course providers.

SECTION 10. Section 30A.1021(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The administering authority shall provide public access

1 to the comments submitted by students and parents under this
2 section. The comments must be in a format that permits a person to
3 sort the comments by teacher, electronic course, and course
4 provider [~~school district or school~~].

5 SECTION 11. Section 30A.103(a), Education Code, is amended
6 to read as follows:

7 (a) The board by rule shall establish an objective standard
8 criteria for an electronic course to ensure alignment with the
9 essential knowledge and skills requirements identified or content
10 requirements established under Subchapter A, Chapter 28. The
11 criteria may not permit the administering authority to prohibit a
12 course provider [~~school districts or schools~~] from applying for
13 approval for an electronic course for a course for which essential
14 knowledge and skills have been identified.

15 SECTION 12. Section 30A.104(b), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (b) If the essential knowledge and skills with which an
18 approved course is aligned in accordance with Subsection (a)(2) are
19 modified, the course provider [~~school district or school~~] must be
20 provided the same time period to revise the course to achieve
21 alignment with the modified essential knowledge and skills as is
22 provided for the modification of a course provided in a traditional
23 classroom setting.

24 SECTION 13. Sections 30A.1041(a) and (b), Education Code,
25 are amended to read as follows:

26 (a) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, [~~or~~]
27 public or private institution of higher education, or other

1 eligible entity may seek approval to offer through the state
2 virtual school network the classroom portion of a driver education
3 and traffic safety course that complies with the requirements for
4 the program developed under Section 29.902.

5 (b) A school district, open-enrollment charter school, ~~[or]~~
6 public or private institution of higher education, or other
7 eligible entity may not offer through the state virtual school
8 network the laboratory portion of a driver education and traffic
9 safety course.

10 SECTION 14. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 30A.1042 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 30A.1042. RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.

13 (a) The administering authority may enter into a reciprocity
14 agreement with one or more other states to facilitate expedited
15 course approval.

16 (b) An agreement under this section must ensure that any
17 course approved in accordance with the agreement:

18 (1) is evaluated to ensure compliance with Sections
19 30A.104(a)(1) and (2) before the course may be offered through the
20 state virtual school network; and

21 (2) meets the requirements of Section 30A.104(a)(3).

22 SECTION 15. Section 30A.105, Education Code, is amended by
23 amending Subsections (a), (a-1), and (d) and adding Subsection (e)
24 to read as follows:

25 (a) The administering authority shall:

26 (1) establish a ~~[schedule for an annual]~~ submission
27 and approval process for electronic courses that occurs on a

1 rolling basis; and

2 (2) evaluate electronic courses to be offered through
3 the state virtual school network~~[, and~~

4 ~~[(3) not later than August 1 of each year, approve~~
5 ~~electronic courses that:~~

6 ~~[(A) meet the criteria established under Section~~
7 ~~30A.103; and~~

8 ~~[(B) provide the minimum instructional rigor and~~
9 ~~scope required under Section 30A.104].~~

10 (a-1) The administering authority shall publish the
11 submission and approval process for electronic courses ~~[schedule]~~
12 established under Subsection (a)(1), including any deadlines
13 ~~[specified in that schedule,]~~ and ~~[any]~~ guidelines applicable to
14 the ~~[submission and approval]~~ process ~~[for electronic courses]~~.

15 (d) If the agency determines that the costs of evaluating
16 and approving a submitted electronic course will not be paid by the
17 agency due to a shortage of funds available for that purpose, the
18 school district, open-enrollment charter school, ~~[or]~~ public or
19 private institution of higher education, or other eligible entity
20 that submitted the course for evaluation and approval may pay a fee
21 equal to the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation
22 of the course occurs. The agency shall establish and publish a fee
23 schedule for purposes of this subsection.

24 (e) The administering authority shall require a course
25 provider to apply for renewed approval of a previously approved
26 course in accordance with a schedule designed to coincide with
27 revisions to the required curriculum under Section 28.002(a) but

1 not later than the 10th anniversary of the previous approval.

2 SECTION 16. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is
3 amended by adding Section 30A.1052 to read as follows:

4 Sec. 30A.1052. INDUCEMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT PROHIBITED. (a)
5 A course provider may not promise or provide equipment or any other
6 thing of value to a student or a student's parent as an inducement
7 for the student to enroll in an electronic course offered through
8 the state virtual school network.

9 (b) The commissioner shall revoke approval under this
10 chapter of electronic courses offered by a course provider that
11 violates this section.

12 (c) The commissioner's action under this section is final
13 and may not be appealed.

14 SECTION 17. Section 30A.106(a), Education Code, is amended
15 to read as follows:

16 (a) A course provider [~~school district or school~~] may appeal
17 to the commissioner the administering authority's refusal to
18 approve an electronic course under Section 30A.105.

19 SECTION 18. Section 30A.107(a), Education Code, is amended
20 to read as follows:

21 (a) A course provider [~~school district or school~~] may offer
22 electronic courses to:

- 23 (1) students and adults who reside in this state; and
24 (2) students who reside outside this state and who
25 meet the eligibility requirements under Section 30A.002(c).

26 SECTION 19. Section 30A.108(b), Education Code, is amended
27 to read as follows:

(b) Each report under this section must describe each electronic course offered through the state virtual school network and include the following information:

- (1) [~~such as~~] course requirements;
- (2) [~~and~~] the school year calendar for the course,
including any options for continued participation outside of the standard school year calendar;
- (3) the entity that developed the course;
- (4) the entity that provided the course;
- (5) the course completion rate;
- (6) aggregate student performance on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023 to students enrolled in the course;
- (7) aggregate student performance on all assessment instruments administered under Section 39.023 to students who completed the course provider's courses; and
- (8) other information determined by the commissioner.

SECTION 20. Section 30A.1121, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30A.1121. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), a course provider [~~school district or open-enrollment charter school~~] may provide professional development courses to teachers seeking to become authorized to teach electronic courses provided through the state virtual school network. A course provider [~~district or school~~] may provide a professional development course that is approved under Subsection (b) to any interested teacher, regardless of [~~whether~~]

1 the teacher's employer [~~teacher is employed by the district or~~
2 ~~school~~].

3 (b) The agency shall review each professional development
4 course sought to be provided by a course provider [~~school district~~
5 ~~or open-enrollment charter school~~] under Subsection (a) to
6 determine if the course meets the quality standards established
7 under Section 30A.113. If a course meets those standards, the
8 course provider [~~district or school~~] may provide the course for
9 purposes of enabling a teacher to comply with Section
10 30A.111(a)(2).

11 SECTION 21. Section 30A.114, Education Code, is amended to
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 30A.114. REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS. The
14 commissioner by rule shall allow regional education service centers
15 to participate in the state virtual school network in the same
16 manner as course providers [~~provider school districts and schools~~].

17 SECTION 22. Section 30A.153, Education Code, is amended by
18 amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to
19 read as follows:

20 (a) Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection
21 (a-1), a [A] school district or open-enrollment charter school in
22 which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42
23 or in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section
24 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered
25 through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the
26 district or school is entitled to funding for the student's
27 enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting,

1 provided that the student successfully completes the electronic
2 course.

3 (a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), a school district or
4 open-enrollment charter school is limited to the funding described
5 by that subsection for a student's enrollment in not more than three
6 electronic courses during any school year, unless the student is
7 enrolled in a full-time online program that was operating on
8 January 1, 2013.

9 (b) The commissioner, after considering comments from
10 school district and open-enrollment charter school
11 representatives, shall adopt a standard agreement that governs the
12 costs, payment of funds, and other matters relating to a student's
13 enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state
14 virtual school network. The agreement may not require a school
15 district or open-enrollment charter school to pay the provider the
16 full amount until the student has successfully completed the
17 electronic course, and the full amount may not exceed the limits
18 specified by Section 30A.105(b).

19 SECTION 23. Section 30A.155, Education Code, is amended by
20 amending Subsections (a) and (c-1) and adding Subsection (e) to
21 read as follows:

22 (a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may
23 charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided
24 through the state virtual school network to a student who resides in
25 this state and:

26 (1) is enrolled in a school district or
27 open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with, ~~and~~

1 ~~[(2) is enrolled in]~~ a course load greater than that
2 normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level in other
3 school districts or open-enrollment charter schools; or

4 (2) elects to enroll in an electronic course provided
5 through the network for which the school district or
6 open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled as
7 a full-time student declines to pay the cost, as authorized by
8 Section 26.0031(c-1).

9 (c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school
10 that is not the course provider ~~[school district or school]~~ may
11 charge a student enrolled in the district or school a nominal fee,
12 not to exceed the amount specified by the commissioner, if the
13 student enrolls in an electronic course provided through the state
14 virtual school network that exceeds the course load normally taken
15 by students in the equivalent grade level. A juvenile probation
16 department or state agency may charge a comparable fee to a student
17 under the supervision of the department or agency.

18 (e) This chapter does not entitle a student who is not
19 enrolled on a full-time basis in a school district or
20 open-enrollment charter school to the benefits of the Foundation
21 School Program.

22 SECTION 24. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Education Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 32.005 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 32.005. STUDY ON SCHOOL DISTRICT NETWORK CAPABILITIES.

25 (a) The commissioner shall conduct a study to assess the network
26 capabilities of each school district. The study must gather
27 sufficient information to determine whether the network

1 connections of a district and school campuses in the district meet
2 the following targets:

3 (1) an external Internet connection to a campus's
4 Internet service provider featuring a bandwidth capable of a
5 broadband speed of at least 100 megabits per second for every 1,000
6 students and staff members; and

7 (2) an internal wide area network connection between
8 the district and each of the school campuses in the district
9 featuring a bandwidth capable of a broadband speed of at least one
10 gigabit per second for every 1,000 students and staff members.

11 (b) The commissioner may solicit and accept gifts and grants
12 from any public or private source to conduct the study. The
13 commissioner may also cooperate or collaborate with national
14 organizations conducting similar studies.

15 (c) The commissioner shall complete the study not later than
16 December 1, 2015. This section expires December 1, 2016.

17 SECTION 25. Section 30A.101(b), Education Code, as amended
18 by Chapters 895 (H.B. 3) and 1328 (H.B. 3646), Acts of the 81st
19 Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, is repealed.

20 SECTION 26. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014
21 school year.

22 SECTION 27. This Act takes effect immediately if it
23 receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each
24 house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution.
25 If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate
26 effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.

House Bill 1926
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

SENATE VERSION (IE)

CONFERENCE

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsection (c-1) to read as follows:

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [A] school district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is enrolled as a full-time student may not [unreasonably] deny the request of a parent of a student to enroll the student in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A.

(c) A [For purposes of Subsection (b), a] school district or open-enrollment charter school may deny [is not considered to have unreasonably denied] a request to enroll a student in an electronic course if:

(1) [the district or school can demonstrate that the course does not meet state standards or standards of the district or school that are of equivalent rigor as the district's or school's standards for the same course provided in a traditional classroom setting;

[(2)] a student attempts to enroll in a course load that[~~is~~ (A)] is inconsistent with the student's high school graduation plan or requirements for college admission or earning an industry certification; [or

[(B) could reasonably be expected to negatively affect the student's performance on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023; or]

(2) [(3)] the student requests permission to enroll in an electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the enrollment period established by the entity [school district or open-enrollment charter school] providing the course; or

(3) the district or school offers a substantially similar course

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may

SECTION 1. Section 26.0031, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (c), and (d) and adding Subsections (c-1) and (f) to read as follows: [FA1(1)]

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c), a [A] school district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is enrolled as a full-time student may not [unreasonably] deny the request of a parent of a student to enroll the student in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A.

(c) A [For purposes of Subsection (b), a] school district or open-enrollment charter school may deny [is not considered to have unreasonably denied] a request to enroll a student in an electronic course if:

(1) [the district or school can demonstrate that the course does not meet state standards or standards of the district or school that are of equivalent rigor as the district's or school's standards for the same course provided in a traditional classroom setting;

[(2)] a student attempts to enroll in a course load that[~~is~~ (A)] is inconsistent with the student's high school graduation plan or requirements for college admission or earning an industry certification; [or

[(B) could reasonably be expected to negatively affect the student's performance on an assessment instrument administered under Section 39.023; or] [FA1(2)]

(2) [(3)] the student requests permission to enroll in an electronic course at a time that is not consistent with the enrollment period established by the school district or open-enrollment charter school providing the course; or

(3) the district or school offers a substantially similar course. [FA1(3)]

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may

SECTION 1. Substantially the same as Senate version except subsection (c-1) does not apply to a student enrolled in a full-time online program *that was operating on January 1, 2013.*

House Bill 1926
Conference Committee Report
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

decline to pay the cost for a student of more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any school year. This subsection does not limit the ability of the student to enroll in additional electronic courses at the student's cost.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(2) ~~[(e)(3)]~~, *an entity [a school district or open-enrollment charter school]* that provides an electronic course through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the enrollment of a student in the course under special circumstances.

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.909 to read as follows:
Sec. 29.909. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES. (a) A school district that provides a course through distance learning and seeks to inform other *school* districts of the availability of the course may submit information to the agency regarding the course, including the number of positions available for student enrollment in the course. The district may submit updated information at the beginning of each semester.

(b) The agency shall make information submitted under this

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decline to pay the cost for a student of more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during any school year. This subsection does not: [FA2(1)]

(1) limit the ability of the student to enroll in additional electronic courses at the student's cost; or

(2) apply to a student enrolled in a full-time online program.

(d) Notwithstanding Subsection (c)(2) ~~[(e)(3)]~~, *a school district or open-enrollment charter school* that provides an electronic course through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A shall make all reasonable efforts to accommodate the enrollment of a student in the course under special circumstances.

(f) A school district or open-enrollment charter school from which a parent of a student requests permission to enroll the student in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network under Chapter 30A has discretion to select a course provider approved by the network's administering authority for the course in which the student will enroll based on factors including the informed choice report in section 30.108(b). [FA1(4)]

SECTION 2. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.909 to read as follows:
Sec. 29.909. DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES. (a) A school district *or open-enrollment charter school* that provides a course through distance learning and seeks to inform other districts *or schools* of the availability of the course may submit information to the agency regarding the course, including the number of positions available for student enrollment in the course. The district *or school* may submit updated information at the beginning of each semester.

(b) The agency shall make information submitted under this

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SECTION 2. Same as Senate version.

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section available on the agency's Internet website.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules governing student enrollment. The commissioner may not adopt rules governing course pricing, and the price for a course shall be determined by the school districts involved.

SECTION 3. Section 30A.001(7), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(7) "Course provider [~~Provider school district or school~~]" means:

(A) a school district or open-enrollment charter school that provides an electronic course through the state virtual school network to:

(i) students enrolled in that district or school; or
(ii) students enrolled in another school district or school; ~~or~~

(B) a public or private institution of higher education, nonprofit entity, or private entity that provides a course through the state virtual school network; or

(C) a corporation that provides an electronic professional development course through the state virtual school network.

SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 30A.0011, ELIGIBILITY OF CERTAIN COURSE PROVIDERS.

section available on the agency's Internet website.

(c) The commissioner may adopt rules necessary to implement this section, including rules governing student enrollment. The commissioner may not adopt rules governing course pricing, and the price for a course shall be determined by the school districts ***or open-enrollment charter schools*** involved.

SECTION 3. Sections 30A.001(7) and (8), Education Code, are amended to read as follows: [FA1(5)]

(7) "Course provider [~~Provider school district or school~~]" means:

(A) a school district or open-enrollment charter school that provides an electronic course through the state virtual school network to:

(i) students enrolled in that district or school; or
(ii) students enrolled in another school district or school; ~~or~~

(B) a public or private institution of higher education, nonprofit entity, or private entity that provides a course through the state virtual school network; or

(C) an entity that provides an electronic professional development course through the state virtual school network.

(8) "Public or private institution of higher education" means:

~~[(A)] an institution of higher education, as defined by 20 U.S.C. Section 1001 [Section 61.003; or~~

~~[(B) a private or independent institution of higher education, as defined by Section 61.003].~~ [FA1(6)]

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 3. Same as Senate version.

Same as Senate version.

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SECTION 5. Section 30A.003, Education Code, PROVISION OF COMPUTER EQUIPMENT OR INTERNET SERVICE, is amended.

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

SECTION 4. Same as House version.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 5. Section 30A.007, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall adopt a written policy that provides district or school students with the opportunity to enroll in electronic courses provided through the state virtual school network. The policy must be consistent with the requirements imposed by Section 26.0031.

[FA1(7)]

(a-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall, at least once per school year, send to a parent of each district or school student enrolled at the middle or high school level a copy of the policy adopted under Subsection (a). A district or school may send the policy with any other information that the district or school sends to a parent. [FA1(8)]

SECTION 5. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 6. Section 30A.056(a), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 6. Same as House version.

SECTION 6. Same as House version.

SECTION 7. The heading to Section 30A.101, Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 7. Same as House version.

SECTION 7. Same as House version.

SECTION 8. Section 30A.101, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b) and (c) to read as follows:

(a) A school district is eligible to act as a course provider [~~school district~~] under this chapter only if the district is rated acceptable [~~or higher~~] under Section 39.054.

SECTION 8. Section 30A.101, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school is eligible to act as a course provider [~~school district~~] under this chapter only if the district or school is rated acceptable [~~or~~

SECTION 8. Same as Senate version.

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(b) An open-enrollment charter school is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the school is rated acceptable or higher under Section 39.054, except that a school may act as a course provider to students receiving educational services under the supervision of a juvenile probation department, the Texas Youth Commission, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice if the school is rated academically acceptable or higher.

An open-enrollment charter school may serve as a course provider only:

(1) to a student within its service area; or

(2) to another student in the state;

(A) through an agreement with the school district in which the student resides; or

(B) if the student receives educational services under the supervision of a juvenile probation department, the **Texas Youth Commission**, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, through an agreement with the applicable agency.

(c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

(1) complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;

(2) **possesses** prior experience offering online courses to **elementary**, middle, **junior high**, or high school students, with demonstrated student success in course completion and performance, as determined by the commissioner; and

(3) demonstrates financial solvency.

higher] under Section 39.054.

An open-enrollment charter school may serve as a course provider only:

(1) to a student within its service area; or

(2) to another student in the state;

(A) through an agreement with the school district in which the student resides; or

(B) if the student receives educational services under the supervision of a juvenile probation department, the **Texas Juvenile Justice Department**, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, through an agreement with the applicable agency.

(c) A nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation is eligible to act as a course provider under this chapter only if the nonprofit entity, private entity, or corporation:

(1) complies with all applicable federal and state laws prohibiting discrimination;

(3) **provides evidence of** prior **successful** experience offering online courses to middle or high school students, with demonstrated student success in course completion and performance, as determined by the commissioner.

(2) demonstrates financial solvency; and [FA1(9)]

(d) **An entity other than a school district or open-enrollment charter school is not authorized to award course credit or a diploma for courses taken through the state virtual school**

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SECTION 9. Section 30A.102, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30A.102. LISTING OF ELECTRONIC COURSES. (a) The administering authority shall:

- (1) publish the criteria required by Section 30A.103 for electronic courses that may be offered through the state virtual school network;
- (2) using the criteria required by Section 30A.103, evaluate electronic courses submitted by a course provider [~~school district or school~~] to be offered through the network;
- (3) create a list of electronic courses approved by the administering authority; and
- (4) *provide public access to* the list of approved electronic courses offered through the network and a detailed description of the courses that complies with Section 30A.108.

(b) To ensure that a full range of electronic courses, including advanced placement courses, are offered to students in this state, the administering authority:

- (1) shall create a list of those subjects and courses designated by the board under Subchapter A, Chapter 28, for which the board has identified essential knowledge and skills or for which the board has designated content requirements under Subchapter A, Chapter 28;
- (2) shall enter into agreements with school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, ~~and~~ public or private institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities for the purpose of offering the courses through the state virtual school network; and
- (3) may develop or authorize the development of additional

network.

SECTION 9. Section 30A.102, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30A.102. LISTING OF ELECTRONIC COURSES. (a) The administering authority shall:

- (1) publish the criteria required by Section 30A.103 for electronic courses that may be offered through the state virtual school network;
 - (2) using the criteria required by Section 30A.103, evaluate electronic courses submitted by a course provider [~~school district or school~~] to be offered through the network;
 - (3) create a list of electronic courses approved by the administering authority; and
 - (4) *publish in a prominent location on the network's Internet website* [~~*provide public access to*~~] the list of approved electronic courses offered through the network and a detailed description of the courses that complies with Section 30A.108.
- (b) To ensure that a full range of electronic courses, including advanced placement courses, are offered to students in this state, the administering authority:
- (1) shall create a list of those subjects and courses designated by the board under Subchapter A, Chapter 28, for which the board has identified essential knowledge and skills or for which the board has designated content requirements under Subchapter A, Chapter 28;
 - (2) shall enter into agreements with school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, ~~and~~ public or private institutions of higher education, and other eligible entities for the purpose of offering the courses through the state virtual school network; and
 - (3) may develop or authorize the development of additional

SECTION 9. Same as Senate version.

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electronic courses that:

(A) are needed to complete high school graduation requirements; and

(B) are not otherwise available through the state virtual school network.

electronic courses that:

(A) are needed to complete high school graduation requirements; and

(B) are not otherwise available through the state virtual school network.

(c) The administering authority shall develop a comprehensive course numbering system for all courses offered through the state virtual school network to ensure, to the greatest extent possible, consistent numbering of similar courses offered across all course providers.

SECTION 10. Section 30A.1021(c), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 10. Same as House version.

SECTION 10. Same as House version.

SECTION 11. Section 30A.103(a), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 11. Same as House version.

SECTION 11. Same as House version.

SECTION 12. Section 30A.104, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (c) to read as follows:

SECTION 12. Section 30A.104(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

SECTION 12. Same as Senate version.

(b) If the essential knowledge and skills with which an approved course is aligned in accordance with Subsection (a)(2) are modified, the course provider [~~school district or school~~] must be provided the same time period to revise the course to achieve alignment with the modified essential knowledge and skills as is provided for the modification of a course provided in a traditional classroom setting.

(b) If the essential knowledge and skills with which an approved course is aligned in accordance with Subsection (a)(2) are modified, the course provider [~~school district or school~~] must be provided the same time period to revise the course to achieve alignment with the modified essential knowledge and skills as is provided for the modification of a course provided in a traditional classroom setting.

(c) This subsection applies to a course provider other than a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or public institution of higher education. The board shall maintain oversight of the services and products relating to public student curriculum offered in this state by a course provider.

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and the course provider may not provide a service or product relating to public student curriculum in this state without board approval, including approval of the form and content of the service or product, and regardless of whether the service or product is provided online, in print, or in person.

SECTION 13. Sections 30A.1041(a) and (b), Education Code, are amended.

SECTION 14. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 30A.1042, RECIPROCITY AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER STATES.

SECTION 15. Section 30A.105, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

SECTION 13. Same as House version.

SECTION 14. Same as House version.

SECTION 15. Section 30A.105, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (a-1), and (d) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(a) The administering authority shall:

(1) establish a ~~[schedule for an annual]~~ submission and approval process for electronic courses that occurs on a rolling basis; and

(2) evaluate electronic courses to be offered through the state virtual school network; ~~and~~

~~[(3) not later than August 1 of each year, approve electronic courses that:~~

~~[(A) meet the criteria established under Section 30A.103; and~~

~~[(B) provide the minimum instructional rigor and scope required under Section 30A.104].~~

(a-1) The administering authority shall publish the submission and approval process for electronic courses [schedule] established under Subsection (a)(1), including any deadlines ~~[specified in that schedule;]~~ and ~~[any]~~

SECTION 13. Same as House version.

SECTION 14. Same as House version.

SECTION 15. Same as Senate version.

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(d) If the agency determines that the costs of evaluating and approving a submitted electronic course will not be paid by the agency due to a shortage of funds available for that purpose, the school district, open-enrollment charter school, ~~[or]~~ public or private institution of higher education, or other eligible entity that submitted the course for evaluation and approval may pay a fee equal to the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation of the course occurs. The agency shall establish and publish a fee schedule for purposes of this subsection.

(e) The administering authority shall require a course provider to apply for renewed approval of a previously approved course in accordance with a schedule designed to coincide with revisions to the required curriculum under Section 28.002(a) but not later than the 10th anniversary of the previous approval.

SECTION 16. Subchapter C, Chapter 30A, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 30A.1052, INDUCEMENTS FOR ENROLLMENT PROHIBITED.

SECTION 17. Section 30A.106(a), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 18. Section 30A.107(a), Education Code, is amended.

SECTION 19. Section 30A.108(b), Education Code, is amended.

guidelines applicable to the ~~[submission and approval]~~ process ~~[for electronic courses]~~.

(d) If the agency determines that the costs of evaluating and approving a submitted electronic course will not be paid by the agency due to a shortage of funds available for that purpose, the school district, open-enrollment charter school, ~~[or]~~ public or private institution of higher education, or other eligible entity that submitted the course for evaluation and approval may pay a fee equal to the amount of the costs in order to ensure that evaluation of the course occurs. The agency shall establish and publish a fee schedule for purposes of this subsection.

(e) The administering authority shall require a course provider to apply for renewed approval of a previously approved course in accordance with a schedule designed to coincide with revisions to the required curriculum under Section 28.002(a) but not later than the 10th anniversary of the previous approval.

SECTION 16. Same as House version.

SECTION 17. Same as House version.

SECTION 18. Same as House version.

SECTION 19. Same as House version.

SECTION 16. Same as House version.

SECTION 17. Same as House version.

SECTION 18. Same as House version.

SECTION 19. Same as House version.

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No equivalent provision.

SECTION 20. Section 30A.1121, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 30A.1121. ALTERNATIVE EDUCATOR PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT. (a) Subject to Subsection (b), a course provider ~~[school district or open-enrollment charter school]~~ may provide professional development courses to teachers seeking to become authorized to teach electronic courses provided through the state virtual school network. A course provider ~~[district or school]~~ may provide a professional development course that is approved under Subsection (b) to any interested teacher, regardless of ~~[whether]~~ the teacher's employer ~~[teacher is employed by the district or school]~~.

(b) The agency shall review each professional development course sought to be provided by a course provider ~~[school district or open-enrollment charter school]~~ under Subsection (a) to determine if the course meets the quality standards established under Section 30A.113. If a course meets those standards, the course provider ~~[district or school]~~ may provide the course for purposes of enabling a teacher to comply with Section 30A.111(a)(2).

SECTION 20. Same as Senate version.

SECTION 20. Section 30A.114, Education Code, REGIONAL EDUCATION SERVICE CENTERS, is amended.

SECTION 21. Same as House version.

SECTION 21. Same as House version.

SECTION 21. Section 30A.153, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a), (b), and (c) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection (a-1), a [A] school district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42 or

SECTION 22. Section 30A.153, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (b) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a) Subject to the limitation imposed under Subsection (a-1), a [A] school district or open-enrollment charter school in which a student is enrolled is entitled to funding under Chapter 42 or

SECTION 22. Same as Senate version except in subsection (a-1), school district or open-enrollment charter school funding is limited to funding for a student's enrollment in not more than three electronic courses during any school year, unless the student is enrolled in a full-time online program *that was operating on January 1, 2013*.

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in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the district or school is entitled to funding for the student's enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting, provided that the student successfully completes the electronic course.

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), a school district or open-enrollment charter school is limited to the funding described by that subsection for a student's enrollment in not more than three electronic courses during any school year.

(b) The commissioner~~], after considering comments from school district and open-enrollment charter school representatives,]~~ shall negotiate an agreement with each course provider [adopt a standard agreement] that governs the costs, payment of funds, and other matters relating to a student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network. The agreement may not require a school district or open-enrollment charter school to pay the provider the full amount until the student has successfully completed the electronic course, and the full amount may not exceed the limits specified by Section 30A.105(b).

(c) A school district or open-enrollment charter school shall use the applicable [standard] agreement negotiated [adopted] under Subsection (b) unless:

- (1) the district or school requests from the commissioner permission to modify the [standard] agreement; and
- (2) the commissioner authorizes the modification.

SECTION 22. Sections 30A.155(a) and (c-1), Education

in accordance with the terms of a charter granted under Section 12.101 for the student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network in the same manner that the district or school is entitled to funding for the student's enrollment in courses provided in a traditional classroom setting, provided that the student successfully completes the electronic course. [FA1(10)]

(a-1) For purposes of Subsection (a), a school district or open-enrollment charter school is limited to the funding described by that subsection for a student's enrollment in not more than three electronic courses during any school year, unless the student is enrolled in a full-time online program. [FA2(2)]

(b) The commissioner, *after considering comments from school district and open-enrollment charter school representatives,* shall *adopt a standard agreement* that governs the costs, payment of funds, and other matters relating to a student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network. The agreement may not require a school district or open-enrollment charter school to pay the provider the full amount until the student has successfully completed the electronic course, and the full amount may not exceed the limits specified by Section 30A.105(b).

SECTION 23. Section 30A.155, Education Code, is amended

SECTION 23. Same as Senate version.

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Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the state virtual school network to a student who resides in this state and:

(1) is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with~~[-and~~
~~[(2) is enrolled in]~~ a course load greater than that normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level in other school districts or open-enrollment charter schools; or

(2) elects to enroll in an electronic course provided through the network for which the school district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled as a full-time student declines to pay the cost, as authorized by Section 26.0031(c-1).

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school that is not the course provider ~~[school district or school]~~ may charge a student enrolled in the district or school a nominal fee, not to exceed the amount specified by the commissioner, if the student enrolls in an electronic course provided through the state virtual school network that exceeds the course load normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level. A juvenile probation department or state agency may charge a comparable fee to a student under the supervision of the department or agency.

No equivalent provision.

by amending Subsections (a) and (c-1) and adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

(a) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may charge a fee for enrollment in an electronic course provided through the state virtual school network to a student who resides in this state and:

(1) is enrolled in a school district or open-enrollment charter school as a full-time student with~~[-and~~
~~[(2) is enrolled in]~~ a course load greater than that normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level in other school districts or open-enrollment charter schools; or

(2) elects to enroll in an electronic course provided through the network for which the school district or open-enrollment charter school in which the student is enrolled as a full-time student declines to pay the cost, as authorized by Section 26.0031(c-1).

(c-1) A school district or open-enrollment charter school that is not the course provider ~~[school district or school]~~ may charge a student enrolled in the district or school a nominal fee, not to exceed the amount specified by the commissioner, if the student enrolls in an electronic course provided through the state virtual school network that exceeds the course load normally taken by students in the equivalent grade level. A juvenile probation department or state agency may charge a comparable fee to a student under the supervision of the department or agency.

(e) This chapter does not entitle a student who is not enrolled on a full-time basis in a school district or open-enrollment charter school to the benefits of the Foundation School Program.

SECTION 24. Subchapter A, Chapter 32, Education Code, is

SECTION 24. Same as Senate version.

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amended by adding Section 32.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 32.005. STUDY ON SCHOOL DISTRICT NETWORK CAPABILITIES. (a) The commissioner shall conduct a study to assess the network capabilities of each school district. The study must gather sufficient information to determine whether the network connections of a district and school campuses in the district meet the following targets:

(1) an external Internet connection to a campus's Internet service provider featuring a bandwidth capable of a broadband speed of at least 100 megabits per second for every 1,000 students and staff members; and

(2) an internal wide area network connection between the district and each of the school campuses in the district featuring a bandwidth capable of a broadband speed of at least one gigabit per second for every 1,000 students and staff members.

(b) The commissioner may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source to conduct the study. The commissioner may also cooperate or collaborate with national organizations conducting similar studies.

(c) The commissioner shall complete the study not later than December 1, 2015. This section expires December 1, 2016.

SECTION 23. Section 30A.101(b), Education Code, as amended by Chapters 895 (H.B. 3) and 1328 (H.B. 3646), Acts of the 81st Legislature, Regular Session, 2009, is repealed.

SECTION 25. Same as House version.

SECTION 25. Same as House version.

SECTION 24. This Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

SECTION 26. Same as House version.

SECTION 26. Same as House version.

SECTION 25. Effective date.

SECTION 27. Same as House version.

SECTION 27. Same as House version.

LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD
Austin, Texas

FISCAL NOTE, 83RD LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION

May 25, 2013

TO: Honorable David Dewhurst, Lieutenant Governor, Senate
Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

FROM: Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

IN RE: HB1926 by King, Ken (Relating to the operation of the state virtual school network and courses provided through other distance learning arrangements.), **Conference Committee Report**

No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.

The bill would expand the list of eligible course providers through the state virtual school network (VSN) to include nonprofit entities, private entities, and entities that provide an electronic professional development course. The bill would prohibit an entity other than a school district or open-enrollment charter school from awarding course credit or a diploma for courses taken through the VSN.

The bill would authorize the state virtual school network to enter into a reciprocity agreement with one or more states to facilitate expedited course approval.

The bill would authorize a charter to receive funding for the student's enrollment in a state virtual school network course in accordance with the terms of its charter. The bill would require the standard VSN agreement adopted by the commissioner to address course costs. The full amount for courses could not exceed \$400 per course or \$4,800 for a full-time student.

The bill would allow a school district or open-enrollment charter school to decline to pay for more than three yearlong electronic courses for a student or the equivalent during a school year, unless the student is enrolled in a full-time online program that was operating on January 1, 2013. Students could enroll in additional electronic courses at their own cost. The bill would allow a district or charter school to charge a fee to an enrolled full-time student who elected to enroll in the VSN and the district declined to pay the cost for the course.

The bill would require the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to make district distance learning courses available on the TEA website.

The bill would require course providers to apply for renewal of previously approved courses coinciding with revisions to the required curriculum or the 10th anniversary of the previous approval.

The bill would limit FSP funding for a student's enrollment to a maximum of three electronic courses during a school year, unless the student is enrolled in a full-time online program that was operating on January 1, 2013.

The bill would prohibit course providers from promising or providing equipment or other items of value to a student or their parent as an inducement to enroll in courses in the virtual school network. The commissioner of education would be required to revoke approval of courses offered by the course provider that violated these provisions.

The bill would require the Informed Choice Report on the VSN website to include the following information: the entity that developed the course, the entity that provided the course, the course completion rate, the aggregate student performance on state-required assessment instruments administered to students enrolled in the course, the aggregate student performance on all state-required assessment instruments administered to students who completed the provider's courses, and any other information determined by the commissioner of education.

The bill would require the commissioner of education to conduct a study of school district network capabilities to determine whether district and campus network connections met certain targets. The commissioner could solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source to conduct the study and could cooperate or collaborate with any national organizations conducting similar studies. The study would have to be completed by December 1, 2015.

Based on information provided by the Texas Education Agency, this analysis assumes that any administrative costs associated with implementing the provisions of this bill could be absorbed within existing resources.

Local Government Impact

A school district or open-enrollment charter school would be required to pay course providers for a student's enrollment in an electronic course offered through the state virtual school network under the terms negotiated by the Commissioner of Education. The district or charter could decline payment for more than three yearlong electronic courses, or the equivalent, during a school year.

A school district or open-enrollment charter school would be required to annually send its VSN policy to parents.

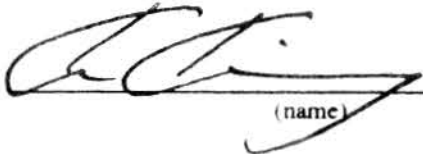
Source Agencies: 701 Central Education Agency

LBB Staff: UP, JBi, JSc, AH

Certification of Compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure

Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, requires that a copy of a conference committee report signed by a majority of each committee of the conference must be furnished to each member of the committee in person or if unable to deliver in person by placing a copy in the member's newspaper mailbox at least one hour before the report is furnished to each member of the house under Section 10(a) of this rule. The paper copies of the report submitted to the chief clerk under Section 10(b) of this rule must contain a certificate that the requirement of this subsection has been satisfied, and that certificate must be attached to the printed copy of the report furnished to each member under Section 10(d) of this rule. Failure to comply with this subsection is not a sustainable point of order under this rule.

I certify that a copy of the conference committee report on H. B. 1926 was furnished to each member of the conference committee in compliance with Rule 13, Section 6(b), House Rules of Procedure, before submission of the paper copies of the report to the chief clerk under Section 10(b), Rule 13, House Rules of Procedure.


(name)

5-25-13
(date)