

SUBJECT: Placing limitations on certain dual credit courses

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 6 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Howard, Turner

0 nays

3 absent — Button, Clardy, Morrison

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, April 3 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Mike Meroney, Texas Workforce Coalition, BASF Corporation, and Huntsman Corporation)

Against — Anna Little, Texas Home School Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Emma Little, Texas Home School Coalition; Meagan Corser; Joshua Newman)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

BACKGROUND: Under Education Code, sec. 28.009, each school district is required to implement a dual credit program under which students can earn the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school.

The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board recommends students choose courses to take as dual credit that fit into the core curriculum of the college or university offering the dual credit program as those courses are guaranteed to transfer to any other public college or university in Texas by state law.

Some have suggested that courses offered for dual credit by school districts and higher education institutions should be limited to courses that would be transferable to general academic institutions and would apply toward a degree.

DIGEST:

SB 1091 would require that a course offered for dual credit be in the core curriculum of the public higher education institution providing college credit, a career and technical education course, or a foreign language course. The limit on which courses could count as dual credit also would apply to a policy adopted to grant undergraduate course credit to entering freshman who meet certain requirements, and courses offered for joint high school and junior college credit.

The bill would not apply to a dual credit course offered as part of the early college education program or any other early college program that assists a student in earning an associate degree while in high school.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2017. The bill would apply beginning with dual credit courses offered for the 2018 spring semester.