

SUBJECT: Removing caps on certain continued teacher education subjects

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 10 ayes — Buckley, Allen, Allison, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hinojosa, K. King, Longoria, Talarico

0 nays

3 absent — Dutton, Hefner, Schaefer

WITNESSES: For — Holly Eaton, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Jan Friese, Texas Counseling Association (*Registered, but did not testify*: Ricardo Martinez, Equality Texas; Amber Mills, MOVE Texas Action; Christine Broughal, Mara LaViola, Texans for Special Education Reform; Alejandro Pena, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Linda Litzinger, Texas Parent to Parent; Carrie Griffith, Texas State Teachers Association; Quynh-Huong Nguyen, Woori juntos; 10 individuals)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lesley Rivas, Mexican American School Boards Association; Henry Bohnert)

On — Amanda Afifi, Texas Association of School Psychologists (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, Justin Porter, TEA; Emily Garcia, Kristin McGuire, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: CSHB 2929 would amend the Education Code so that a classroom teacher's continuing education requirements could not require that more than 25 percent of the training required every five years include instruction on:

- collecting and analyzing information that will improve effectiveness in the classroom;
- recognizing early warning indicators that a student could be at risk of dropping out of school;
- digital learning, digital teaching, and integrating technology in the classroom;

- educating diverse student populations; and
- understanding appropriate relationships, boundaries, and communications between educators and students.

Training in these topics by a classroom teacher in excess of 25 percent of the hours of a teacher's required training every five years would be counted toward the teacher's overall training requirements.

CSHB 2929 would amend the continuing education requirements for counselors such that at least 25 percent of training required every five years include instruction on:

- assisting students in developing high school graduation plans;
- implementing dropout prevention strategies;
- informing students about college admissions, financial aid resources, and career opportunities;
- counseling students concerning mental health conditions and substance abuse, including through the use of grief-informed and trauma-informed interventions and crisis management and suicide prevention strategies; and
- effective implementation of a comprehensive school counseling program.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 2929 would clarify that more than 25 percent of a teacher's required continuing education hours could be, but would not be required to be, in certain topics. Currently, an unintended consequence of the law regarding teacher continuing education requirements is that teachers who take more than 25 percent of their total hours in these courses are unable to count these hours toward the total number of hours required for certificate renewal. CSHB 2929 would clarify that teachers could still take these courses in excess of 25 of their total hours and count these courses toward their overall continuing education hours.

CSHB 2929 also would remove the cap on certain continuing education

courses for counselors that are central to their duties, enabling more counselors to receive the training they need to guide young Texans through their education.

CRITICS
SAY:

No concerns identified.