CH. 214, § 3

CHAPTER 214

H.B. No. 2201

AN ACT
relating to increasing the courses offered in the career and technology education curriculum.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0022 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0022. INCREASE IN ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY AND CAREER-RELATED COURSES. (a) Not later than September 1, 2014, the State Board of Education shall ensure that at least six advanced career and technology education or technology applications courses, including a course in personal financial literacy that is consistent with Section 28.0021, are approved to satisfy a fourth credit in mathematics required for high school graduation.

(b) Not later than January 1, 2015, the commissioner shall review and report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each standing committee of the legislature with primary responsibility over public primary and secondary education regarding the progress of increasing the number of courses approved for the career and technology education or technology applications curriculum. The commissioner shall include in the report a detailed description of any new courses, including instructional materials and required equipment, if any.

(c) This section expires September 1, 2015.

SECTION 2. Section 28.025(b-2), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b-2) In adopting rules under Subsection (b-1), the State Board of Education shall allow a student to comply with the curriculum requirements for the third and fourth [a] mathematics credits [course] under Subsection (b-1)(1) [taken after the successful completion of Algebra I and geometry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with Algebra II] or the third and fourth [a] science credits [course] under Subsection (b-1)(1) [taken after the successful completion of biology and chemistry and either after the successful completion of or concurrently with physics] by successfully completing an advanced career and technical course designated by the State Board of Education as containing substantively similar and rigorous academic content. [A student may use the option provided by this subsection for not more than two courses.]

SECTION 3. Section 28.027(b), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) The State Board of Education shall establish a process under which an applied STEM course may be reviewed and approved for purposes of satisfying the mathematics and science curriculum requirements for the recommended high school program imposed under Section 28.025(b-1)(1)(A) through substitution of the applied STEM course for a specific mathematics or science course otherwise required under the recommended high school program [and completed during the student's fourth year of mathematics or science course work]. The State Board of Education may only approve a course to substitute for a mathematics course taken after successful completion of Algebra I and geometry [and after successful completion of Algebra II]. The State Board of Education may only approve a course to substitute for a science course taken after successful completion of biology [and chemistry and after successful completion of or concurrently with physics].
SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.
Passed by the House on May 9, 2013: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; the
House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2201 on May 23, 2013: Yeas
146, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May
21, 2013: Yeas 31, Nays 0.
Approved June 10, 2013.
Effective September 1, 2013.

CHAPTER 215
H.B. No. 3662
AN ACT
relating to the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program; authorizing a fee.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section
29.922 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.922. TEXAS WORKFORCE INNOVATION NEEDS PROGRAM. (a) In this
section:

(1) "Private or independent institution of higher education" has the meaning assigned
by Section 61.003.

(2) "Program" means the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program.

(b) The Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program is established to:

(1) provide selected school districts, public institutions of higher education, and private
or independent institutions of higher education with the opportunity to establish innova-
tive programs designed to prepare students for careers for which there is demand in this
state; and

(2) use the results of those programs to inform the governor, legislature, and commis-
sioner concerning methods for transforming public education and higher education in this
state by improving student learning and career preparedness.

(c) To apply to participate in the program, a school district, public institution of higher
education, or private or independent institution of higher education must use the form and
apply in the time and manner established by commissioner rule. The application process
must require each applicant district or institution of higher education to submit a detailed
plan as required by Subsections (d) and (e) of the instruction and accountability the
applicant would provide under the program.

(d) A plan submitted under Subsection (c):

(1) must:

(A) be designed to support improved instruction of and learning by students and
provide evidence of the accurate assessment of the quality of learning on campus;

(B) describe any waiver of an applicable prohibition, requirement, or restriction for
which the district or institution of higher education intends to apply; and

(C) include any other information required by commissioner rule; and

(2) may, if submitted by a school district, designate one or more campuses rather than
the entire district to participate in the program.

(e) In addition to satisfying the requirements under Subsection (d)(1), a plan submitted
under Subsection (c) must, to the greatest extent appropriate for the grade or higher
education levels served under the program, either:

(1) focus on engagement of students in competency-based learning as necessary to earn
postsecondary credentials, including: