

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
82R13149 KEL-D

C.S.S.B. 850
By: Zaffirini
Higher Education
3/9/2011
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill would stop funding for dual credit courses that are not likely to transfer (e.g., physical education courses) and incentivize institutions to provide only those courses that will be transferable to a two-year or four-year institution. As dual credit courses have increased in popularity since 2003, courses are offered that rarely transfer, limiting the effectiveness of dual credit as a means for expanding college access and success. Current law allows institutions of higher education to receive formula funding for dual credit coursework, regardless of whether the course is in the core curriculum.

This consolidation of dual credit courses would help address some of the concerns regarding quality of dual credit coursework. With the elimination of courses that do not transfer, the state can begin to "wrap its arms" around dual credit coursework and better analyze cost and effectiveness issues.

This bill would limit formula funding for dual credit courses to: courses in the core curriculum, foreign language courses, and career and technical education courses that apply to a certificate or associate's degree at the institution providing course credit.

C.S.S.B. 850 amends current law relating to formula funding for certain semester credit hours earned for dual course credit

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 61.059, Education Code, by adding Subsection (p), as follows:

(p) Prohibits the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in its instruction and operations formula applicable to an institution of higher education, from including any semester credit hours earned for dual course credit by a high school student for high school and college credit at the institution unless those credit hours are earned through any of the following:

- (1) a course in the core curriculum of the institution providing course credit;
- (2) a career and technical education course that applies to any certificate or associate's degree offered by the institution providing course credit; and
- (3) a foreign language course.

SECTION 2. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2011.