

BILL ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2302
By: Blanco
Defense & Veterans' Affairs
Committee Report (Substituted)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Interested parties contend that the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test presents all students, not just those who are considering military services as an occupation, with a valuable opportunity to evaluate their individual strengths and weaknesses. C.S.H.B. 2302 aims to empower students by requiring every school district and open-enrollment charter school to provide an opportunity each year for students in grades 10 through 12 to take either the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test or an appropriate alternative aptitude test.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IMPACT

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly create a criminal offense, increase the punishment for an existing criminal offense or category of offenses, or change the eligibility of a person for community supervision, parole, or mandatory supervision.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

ANALYSIS

C.S.H.B. 2302 amends the Education Code to require each public school district and open-enrollment charter school each school year to provide students in grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter. The bill requires the test to be scheduled during normal school hours and, to optimize student participation, at a time that limits conflicts with extracurricular activities. The bill requires each district and charter school to provide each student in grades 10 through 12 and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student a notice of the date, time, and location of the scheduled administration of the test.

C.S.H.B. 2302 authorizes a district or open-enrollment charter school to elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test only if the district or school provides an alternative test that assesses a student's aptitude for success in a career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary education, is free to administer, requires minimal training and support of district or school faculty and staff to administer the test, and provides the student with a professional interpretation of the test results that allows the student to explore occupations that are consistent with the student's interests and skills and to develop strategies to attain the student's career goals. The bill authorizes a district, open-enrollment charter school, or high school that, before September 1, 2017, entered into a contract under which a vocational aptitude test that does not comply with the requirements for an alternative test is provided to students in grades 10 through 12 to elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test for the term of the contract and establishes that that exemption no longer applies on expiration of the contract term. The bill requires the Texas Education Agency not later than August 1 of each year to publish a list of districts and charter schools that elected not to provide the Armed

Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test, as provided by the bill, during the previous school year. The bill applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

EFFECTIVE DATE

On passage, or, if the bill does not receive the necessary vote, September 1, 2017.

COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL AND SUBSTITUTE

While C.S.H.B. 2302 may differ from the original in minor or nonsubstantive ways, the following comparison is organized and formatted in a manner that indicates the substantial differences between the introduced and committee substitute versions of the bill.

INTRODUCED

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9015 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9015. ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY TEST. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d), each school year each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide students in grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

(b) The test under Subsection (a) must be scheduled:

- (1) during normal school hours; and
- (2) to optimize student participation, at a time that limits conflicts with extracurricular activities.

(c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide each student in grades 10 through 12 and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student a notice of the date, time, and location of the scheduled administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

(d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test only if the district or school provides an alternative test that:

- (1) assesses a student's aptitude for success in a career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary education;
- (2) is free to administer;
- (3) requires minimal training and support of district or school faculty and staff to administer the test; and
- (4) provides the student with a professional interpretation of the test results that allows

HOUSE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE

SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.9015 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.9015. ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY TEST. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (d) or (e), each school year each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide students in grades 10 through 12 an opportunity to take the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test and consult with a military recruiter.

(b) The test under Subsection (a) must be scheduled:

- (1) during normal school hours; and
- (2) to optimize student participation, at a time that limits conflicts with extracurricular activities.

(c) Each school district and open-enrollment charter school shall provide each student in grades 10 through 12 and the student's parent or person standing in parental relation to the student a notice of the date, time, and location of the scheduled administration of the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test.

(d) A school district or open-enrollment charter school may elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test only if the district or school provides an alternative test that:

- (1) assesses a student's aptitude for success in a career field other than a career field that requires postsecondary education;
- (2) is free to administer;
- (3) requires minimal training and support of district or school faculty and staff to administer the test; and
- (4) provides the student with a professional interpretation of the test results that allows

the student to:

- (A) explore occupations that are consistent with the student's interests and skills; and
- (B) develop strategies to attain the student's career goals.

(e) Not later than August 1 of each year, the agency shall publish a list of school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that elected under Subsection (d) not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test during the previous school year.

SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

the student to:

- (A) explore occupations that are consistent with the student's interests and skills; and
- (B) develop strategies to attain the student's career goals.

(e) This subsection applies only to a school district, open-enrollment charter school, or high school that, before September 1, 2017, entered into a contract under which a vocational aptitude test that does not comply with the requirements for an alternative test under Subsection (d) is provided to students in grades 10 through 12. A school district, open-enrollment charter school, or high school subject to this subsection may elect not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test for the term of the contract. On the expiration of the contract term, the exemption provided by this subsection is not applicable.

(f) Not later than August 1 of each year, the agency shall publish a list of school districts and open-enrollment charter schools that elected under Subsection (d) or (e) not to provide the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery test during the previous school year.

SECTION 2. Same as introduced version.

SECTION 3. Same as introduced version.