

- SUBJECT:** Career and technical education for certain high school students
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Eissler, Zedler, Branch, Hochberg, Olivo, Patrick  
0 nays  
3 absent — Delisi, Dutton, Mowery
- WITNESSES:** For — Terry Green, Family and Consumer Sciences Teachers Association of Texas; John H. Stevens, TBEC; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Ed Berger, Seton Family of Hospitals; Bill Carpenter, Texas Council of Administrators of Special Education; Rebecca Flores, Houston Independent School District; Lindsay Gustafson, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Linda Holcombe, Texas Career & Technology Council; Elena Lincoln, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Julie Shields, Texas Association of School Boards; Gerald Young, Agriculture Teachers Association of Texas)  
  
Against — None  
  
On — Drew Scheberle, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Terry Brooke, Texas Public Policy Foundation
- BACKGROUND:** According to the Intercultural Development Research Association, Texas schools fail to graduate about 35 percent of their high school students. This creates enormous costs for the students themselves and for society as a whole. Students who do not complete high school are ill equipped for employment in the modern workforce, and 75 percent of inmates in America's state prisons did not complete high school.  
  
Career and technical education can increase students' knowledge and skills, which in turn improves their likelihood of graduating high school. According to the Center on Education and Training for Employment, career and technical education can help reduce drop-out rates by as much as 32 percent. Data show that such programs can be especially beneficial for high-risk students.

DIGEST:

CSHB 3485 would amend Education Code, ch. 28 to add provisions promoting a career and technical curriculum to fulfill high school and postsecondary education requirements.

The bill would add sec. 28.0022 to create a review panel for career and technical education curriculum under the Texas Education Agency (TEA) by November 1, 2007. Participation in the panel would be voluntary and uncompensated. The panel would review and recommend revisions:

- to career and technical education under the enrichment portion of the required academic curriculum; and
- for the program in which high schools and articulated postsecondary institutions allow high school students to take advanced technical credit courses.

The panel would consist of:

- individuals with expertise developing or administering career and technical education programs; and
- employers who hire students who have obtained certification or credentials under a career and technical education program.

By November 1, 2008, the panel would complete the required reviews and make recommendations to the State Board of Education in order to increase the academic rigor of the career and technical education curriculum and also to improve and increase participation in the program in which high schools and articulated postsecondary institutions allow high school students to take advanced technical credit courses.

By September 1, 2009, the State Board of Education would revise the career and technical education curriculum based on the recommendations of the panel. The board would require school districts to provide instruction in the revised career and technical education curriculum beginning with the 2010-11 school year.

These requirements of the review panel and the board of education would expire on September 1, 2014.

CSHB 3485 would amend sec. 28.025 to allow a student to fulfill curriculum requirements toward a high school diploma for a total of no more than two math or science courses by successfully completing an

appropriately rigorous career and technical course approved by the State Board of Education.

The bill would amend the College Credit Program in sec. 28.009 to permit high school students to earn at least 12 hours of college credit through any combination of:

- articulated postsecondary advanced technical credit courses;
- articulated postsecondary courses provided for local credit;
- international baccalaureate courses;
- advanced placement courses; or
- dual-credit courses.

School districts would be required annually to report to TEA the number of students, including career and technical students, who participated in the program and earned college credit, as well as the total number of courses the students enrolled in and the college credit hours earned.

CSHB 3485 would amend the Personal Graduation Plan in sec. 28.0212 to encourage individual school districts to establish for each new high school freshman student a personal graduation plan to:

- promote college workforce and readiness;
- promote career placement and advancement; and
- assist the student's transition from secondary to postsecondary education.

The 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, 2007.