

- SUBJECT:** Increasing certain courses offered in the career and technology curriculum
- COMMITTEE:** Economic and Small Business Development — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — J. Davis, Vo, Isaac, Murphy, Perez, E. Rodriguez, Workman  
0 nays  
2 absent — Bell, Y. Davis
- WITNESSES:** For — Vernagene Mott, Texas Association of School Boards and Pflugerville Independent School District; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Ellen Arnold, Texas Association of Goodwills, Texas Parent Teacher Association; Jon Fisher, Associated Builders and Contractors of Texas; Ken McCraw, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Ned Munoz, Texas Association of Builders; Daniel Womack, Texas Chemical Council)  
  
Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Career and technology programs can provide students with industry certification and expand the number of opportunities for students who do not pursue a traditional four-year college program. Many licensure certificates are accessible to high school students, who can receive training and instruction on a trade and take a certification exam.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 2201 would amend Education Code, ch. 28, to require the State Board of Education to approve at least three more advanced career and technology education courses that would satisfy a fourth credit in mathematics that is currently required for high school graduation. The courses must be approved by September 1, 2014.  
  
The commissioner of education would be required by January 1, 2015 to give a report on the progress of the additional career and technology courses to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and the presiding officers of each committee in the Legislature tasked with overseeing public education. The requirements in the bill would expire September 1, 2015.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2013.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

CSHB 2201 would provide the state's public school system with much-needed math courses that give career and technology students practical real-world value. Adding the courses would provide more flexibility within the state's curriculum and would not be difficult to implement.

Currently, the state offers three career and technology courses that satisfy the required fourth credit in mathematics. The bill would ensure the addition of at least three more of these courses. This expansion of the curriculum is critical in helping prepare for the workforce those high school students who do not plan to pursue a post-secondary education. Many of the state's rapidly growing employment fields are in technical fields so the bill would help satisfy this demand.

Creating and implementing the courses would not be difficult as the Texas Education Agency is already in the process of developing two such career and technology courses and a third course is not far off. This process includes input from educators. Also, a study by the Legislative Budget Board shows there would be no significant impact from the bill.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.