

- SUBJECT:** Technical changes to student testing requirements
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Aycock, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Farney, Galindo, González, Huberty, K. King, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Sandra West, Science Teachers Association of Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: David Anderson, Arlington ISD Board of Trustees; Mike King and Gina Mannino, Bridge City ISD; Jodi Duron, Elgin ISD; Howell Wright, Huntsville ISD; Kristi Hassett, Lewisville ISD School Board; Berhl Robertson, Jr., Lubbock ISD; Jimmy Parker, Lubbock Roosevelt ISD; Keith Bryant, Lubbock-Cooper ISD; Bill Hammond, Texas Association of Business; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Ellen Arnold, Texas PTA; Colby Nichols, Texas Rural Education Association; Maria Whitsett, Texas School Alliance; Monty Exter, the Association of Texas Professional Educators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Shannon Meroney; Melissa Oman)
- Against — None
- On — Drew Scheberle, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Ted Melina Raab, Texas AFT (American Federation of Teachers); (*Registered, but did not testify*: Von Byer, Criss Cloudt, Shannon Housson, Monica Martinez, and Gloria Zyskowski, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** The 83rd Legislature in 2013 passed HB 5 by Aycock, which adopted new graduation and testing requirements for high school students. Some technical adjustments are needed for those requirements. For instance, students moving into Texas could have to take end-of-course exams for courses they already completed in other states.

The bill also required the Texas Education Agency (TEA) to release

question and answer keys for the State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness (STAAR) exams. TEA is seeking to defer releasing certain question and answer keys while it modifies and develops math tests for grades 3 through 8 and develops new items for the STAAR Alternate 2 test.

Education Code, sec. 130.008(f) prohibits a student from attending more than three courses at a junior college if the student's high school is outside the junior college's service area. Some have called for clarification to allow junior colleges to continue partnerships with school districts that allow students to enroll in additional courses.

DIGEST:

CSHB 2349 would require a high school student to take an end-of-course exam only for a course in which the student was enrolled. The bill would allow TEA to continue administering certain students the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills — the testing system prior to STAAR — under a transition plan that was set to expire.

For purposes of allowing a student to earn a performance acknowledgment on the student's high school diploma and transcript for outstanding performance on a college preparation or admission exam, the bill would replace vendor-specific language with non-vendor specific language. It also would allow performance acknowledgements for state recognized business or industry certifications or licenses.

Public school students would be allowed to enroll in more than three courses at a junior college that was outside the student's high school service area if each junior college and the student's school district agreed to authorize the student's enrollment or the student was enrolled at an early college high school.

The bill would allow TEA to defer releasing STAAR questions and answer keys to the extent necessary to develop additional assessment instruments.

The bill would repeal several Education Code requirements that were

outdated or not applicable to current testing.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2015-16 school year.

This 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, 2015.