

SUBJECT: Expanding student roles under Work-Study Student Mentorship Program

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 6 ayes — Lozano, Raney, Alonzo, Alvarado, Button, Morrison

0 nays

3 absent — Clardy, Howard, Turner

SENATE VOTE: On final passage, May 4 — 31-0, on Local and Uncontested Calendar

WITNESSES: *On House companion bill, HB 796:*

For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Yannis Banks, Texas NAACP; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Mike Meroney, Texas Workforce Coalition, BASF Corp., Huntsman Corp.; Scott Norman, Texas Association of Builders; Stephanie Simpson, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent Business/Texas; Stewart, ACC Mobility RN Program; Michael White, Texas Construction Association; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)

BACKGROUND: Education Code, sec. 56.079 requires the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to administer the Work-Study Student Mentorship Program, which allows college students enrolled at eligible institutions to be employed in a work-study program to mentor high school students or counsel them in centers designed to improve access to higher education.

DIGEST: SB 2082 would allow a college student employed in the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board's Work-Study Student Mentorship program to work to support student interventions at eligible institutions that were

focused on increasing completion of degrees or certificates, such as interventions occurring through advising or supplemental instruction.

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, 2017.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

SB 2082 would help the state achieve the goals of its 60x30 Texas plan, which aims to have 60 percent of Texans ages 25 to 34 attain a degree or certificate by 2030. The bill would do this by expanding the possible roles of students participating in the state's Work-Study Student Mentorship Program to include supporting interventions focused on increasing the completion of degrees and certificates.

Allowing participants in the Work-Study Student Mentorship Program to support interventions such as advising and supplemental instruction would contribute to the development of an educated workforce that could meet the needs of businesses and spur economic growth in the state. Enlisting students to help their peers would be a cost-effective way to promote the completion of post-secondary education.

Although current law does not prohibit these types of mentorship programs, SB 2082 would help to align best practices among the state's colleges and universities by creating a statutory framework for institutions to employ work-study students for interventions to increase degree or certificate completion.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

SB 2082 unnecessarily would authorize educational institutions to create peer mentoring programs focused on helping students complete degrees and certificates. Statute currently does not prevent creation of these programs, and certain institutions already have them in place.

NOTES:

A companion bill, HB 796 by Clardy, was withdrawn from the Local, Consent, and Resolutions Calendar on May 9.