

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

C.S.S.B. 1727
By: West
Education
4/15/2009
Committee Report (Substituted)

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

According to the February 2009 Education Commission of the States report on *The Progress of Education Reform—Funding Dual Credit Programs*, "more than 87 percent of America's public high schools offer their students the opportunity to gain college credit prior to graduation. Learning opportunities that allow students to gain college-level credit often are referred to as 'dual credit' programs, and they are experiencing a growth in both the number of students who take advantage of them and the number of schools that offer them. One reason for the extreme growth in dual credit programs is that they are seen as a way to ease the transition from high school to postsecondary education or the workforce."

Texas high schools are following this national trend and are increasingly offering dual credit courses to high school students. However, there needs to be a mutually beneficial and supportive partnership between the Texas Education Agency (TEA) and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB). This partnership needs to include rules that dictate what each agency does in relation to dual credit programs, and related reporting requirements.

C.S.S.B. 1727 amends current law relating to rules adopted and reporting required under the school district college credit program.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the commissioner of education in SECTION 1 (Section 28.009, Education Code) of this bill.

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in SECTION 1 (Section 28.009, Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Sections 28.009(b) and (c), Education Code, as follows:

(b) Authorizes the commissioner of education (commissioner) to adopt rules as necessary concerning the duties under this section of a school district. Authorizes the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) to adopt rules as necessary concerning the duties under this section of a public institution of higher education.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 28.009(c), Education Code, effective September 1, 2009, as follows:

(c) Requires each school district to annually report to the Texas Education Agency the number of district students, including career technical students, who have participated in the program and the courses in which participating district students have earned high school credit under this section, rather the number of district students, including career and technical students, who have participated in the program and earned college credit, and the cumulative number of courses in which participating district students have enrolled and college credit hours the students have earned.

SECTION 3. Amends Section 28.009(c), Education Code, effective September 1, 2011, as follows:

(c) Requires the commissioner and THECB to share data as necessary to enable school districts to comply with this subsection.

SECTION 4. Amends Section 28.009, Education Code, effective September 1, 2011, by adding Subsection (c-1), as follows:

(c-1) Requires THECB to collect student course credit data from public institutions of higher education as necessary for purposes of Subsection (c).

SECTION 5. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2009.