

SUBJECT: Simultaneous high school and community college credit courses

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Sadler, Grusendorf, Hochberg, Lengefeld, Oliveira, Olivo, Smith
0 nays
2 absent — Dutton, Dunnam

WITNESSES: For — Richard Fonte, Austin Community College
Against — None

BACKGROUND: Current law allows a student simultaneously to receive high school and community college credit for a college course if the course applies to high school graduation requirements. The law allows the community college to waive tuition for simultaneous credit courses.

The bill would take effect September 1, 1999.

DIGEST: HB 3290 would remove the requirement that a college course must apply toward high school graduation requirements for a student to receive simultaneous credit in high school and community college, plus a tuition waiver if allowed by the college. Under HB 3290, the simultaneous credit course would have to meet only the student's high school academic requirements.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 3290 states that any course that applied to high school academic requirements, not just graduation requirements, would be eligible for simultaneous credit and a tuition waiver at a community college. For example, an advanced student might enroll in a calculus course and receive college credit. However, if the high school's graduation requirement specified an algebra course, the student would not be eligible for double credit or a tuition waiver. Under HB 3290, the student could receive an elective credit in high school and college credit as well.

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This bill would allow community colleges to waive tuition for more courses because more courses would be eligible for simultaneous credit. It would encourage students to enroll in more college-level courses and receive simultaneous high school credit while saving money. This measure would help more students complete college degree or certificate programs.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No apparent opposition.

NOTES:

The companion bill, SB 1352 by Barrientos, passed the Senate on April 21 and was reported favorably, without amendment, by the House Public Education Committee on May 6.