

- SUBJECT:** Continuing education for personnel of career schools and colleges
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Morrison, Goolsby, F. Brown, Dawson, Gallego, Giddings, Harper-Brown, J. Jones, Rose
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Maureen Clements, Paulette Gallerson, ITT Technical Institute; Harvey Michael Giblin, Texas Culinary Academy, Career Colleges and Schools of Texas; Robert Obenhaus, MTI College of Business & Technology; Bruce Reed, Brent Sheets, Career Colleges and Schools of Texas
- Against — None
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, ch. 132 regulates career schools and colleges, which are privately owned and operated. The Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) has jurisdiction and control of the career schools and colleges system, but these schools also are regulated by the federal government. A career school or college that seeks to operate in Texas must meet certain criteria and receive a certificate of approval from TWC. Certificates of approval must be renewed every year.
- DIGEST:** HB 2333 would require directors of admissions, full-time instructors, and chief administrative officers or owners with supervisory authority over career schools or colleges to complete at least six hours of applicable continuing education each year. TWC would set minimum qualifications and training requirements by rule.
- TWC would approve whether an entity was qualified to provide continuing education or training courses. An entity would have to demonstrate the ability to offer a curriculum that:
- addressed the applicable requirements for the positions for which the education or training was provided;
 - addressed the statutes, rules, and federal regulations or guidelines applicable to the positions;

- include d any criteria required to receive or retain accreditation from a nationally recognized organization; and
- addressed any other curriculum needs of a continuing education or training course required by the bill.

Each career school or college would have to keep records of the continuing education or training that school personnel receive d, and the records would have to be available at the school for inspection during regular business hours. Before the TWC issued a certificate of approval or a renewal, it could require a career school or college to submit evidence of compliance with the minimum qualifications and continuing education requirements set forth in the bill.

The minimum qualifications and the continuing education requirements would not apply before September 1, 2006. TWC would have to prescribe procedures for admissions directors, full-time instructors, chief administrative officers or owners who were employed before September 1, 2006, to meet the necessary requirements of the bill. This provision would expire January 1, 2007.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2005.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 2333 would enhance the career schools and colleges industry by requiring instructors and administrators to meet continuing education requirements. It would help ensure that owners and directors were aware of the state and federal requirements surrounding federal financial aid, attendance requirements, jurisprudence, and ethics.

Students increasingly are choosing career schools to meet their educational needs, with nearly 90,000 students annually receiving certification in fields such as the culinary arts, court reporting, and computer technology. The industry recognizes the importance of accountability in all sectors of higher education and the need to maintain the utmost credibility with the public by requiring continuing education to ensure that the qualifications of those responsible for training these students remain up to date.

The bill is modeled after a highly successful program in Florida, and the experiences of this large and diverse state should translate well to Texas.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.

NOTES: The companion bill, SB 1185 by West, was reported favorably, without amendment, by the Senate Education Committee on April 18 and has been placed on the Senate Local and Uncontested Calendar for April 26.