

- SUBJECT:** Informing high school students about choosing a field of study early
- COMMITTEE:** Public Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Bohac, Deshotel, Dutton, Gooden, K. King, Koop, Meyer, VanDeaver
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Dustin Meador, Texas Association of Community Colleges; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Drew Scheberle, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Chris Frandsen and Brenda Koegler, League of Women Voters of Texas; John Hubbard, Ian Randolph, Leticia Van de Putte, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD; Priscilla Camacho, San Antonio Chamber of Commerce; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Courtney Boswell, Texas Aspires; Miranda Goodsheller, Texas Association of Business; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association)
- Against — None
- On — Melissa Henderson, Educate Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Kara Belew, Shelly Ramos, and Quentin Suffren, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code, sec. 33.007(b) requires a school counselor to provide high school students and their parents or guardians with information on postsecondary education, including information on the importance of postsecondary education, financial aid, and college credit programs in the district.
- Concerns have been raised that students often accumulate unnecessary credits in college due to uncertainty about their eventual field of study, which can negatively affect their ability to achieve postsecondary education goals.

DIGEST:

HB 1540 would require a school counselor, in addition to providing the information required under Education Code, sec. 33.007(b), to inform high school students on the importance of selecting a field of study before or soon after enrollment in a postsecondary educational institution and the potential consequences of delaying the decision, particularly if the student intended to transfer between postsecondary institutions.

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, 2017, and would apply beginning with the 2017-18 school year.