

SUBJECT: Requiring agreements for dual credit programs to include advising

COMMITTEE: Higher Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, Muñoz, Ortega, Parker,
Raney, J. Turner

0 nays

2 absent — P. King, C. Turner

WITNESSES: For — Chris Walters, Texas 2036; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Todd Williams, Commit Partnership; Chloe Latham Sikes, Intercultural Development Research Association; Patrick Brophy, North Texas Commission; Charles Gaines, Raise Your Hand Texas; Dustin Meador, Texas Association of Community Colleges; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Gilbert Zavala, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Thomas Parkinson)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Alamo Colleges District)

BACKGROUND: Under Education Code sec. 28.009, school districts are required to implement a program for students to earn the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school. These programs can include dual credit programs. Sec. 28.009(b-2) establishes several requirements for agreements between a school district and a public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program.

Some have suggested that providing academic advising to students enrolled in dual credit programs would help ensure students get the guidance and support necessary to succeed in these programs.

DIGEST: HB 4403 would require that an agreement between a school district and public institutions of higher education to provide a dual credit program designate at least one employee of the district or institution to provide academic advising to students enrolling in a dual credit course. The advising would have to be provided before the student began the course.

To the extent of any conflict, HB 4403 would prevail over another act of the 87th Legislature, Regular Session, 2021, relating to nonsubstantive additions to and corrections in enacted codes.

The bill would apply to agreements to provide dual credit programs entered into on or after September 1, 2021.

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, 2021.