

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
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S.B. 724
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Education
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As Filed

DIGEST

Currently, Texas offers certain state statewide programs for teacher continuing education that are targeted at specific groups. S.B. 724 would authorize the Texas Education Agency to contract with public and private entities for continuing education programs.

PURPOSE

As proposed, S.B. 724 provides continuing education courses and programs for public school educators.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Education Coordinating Board in SECTION 2 (Section 61.051(s), Education Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 21B, Education Code, to add Section 21.0541, as follows:

Sec. 21.0541. CONTRACTS FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION. Authorizes the Texas Education Agency (agency) to contract with a public or private entity, including an entity that receives funds from the National Endowment for the Humanities under U.S.C. Section 956, for the provision of continuing education courses and programs that fulfill educators' continuing education requirements. Requires a continuing education course or program provided under this section to take certain action. Requires an entity seeking a contract with the agency under Subsection (a) to demonstrate to the agency a history of providing courses and programs that meet the requirements of this section. Requires an entity contracting with the agency under Subsection (a) to enter into agreements with institutions of higher education representing all geographic regions of the state to sponsor and conduct courses or programs. Sets forth requirements of the agreement. Requires the agency to pay an entity under a contract under Subsection (a) from funds appropriated for that purpose. Requires the entity to use money received under the contract to pay for certain items. Requires an educator seeking to attend a course or program offered under this section to apply through the institution of higher education sponsoring the course or program. Requires an institution providing a course or program under this section to give preference to applications from educators with 10 or more years of educator experience and may not admit more than 25 educators for each course or program. Requires the state auditor to annually audit each contract entered into under Subsection (a).

SECTION 2. Amends Section 61.051, Education Code, by adding Subsection (s), to require the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to adopt rules that require institutions of higher education to give credit as higher education course work to a continuing education course or program provided under Section 21.0541.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 4. Emergency clause.