

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
83R23356 JSL-F

H.B. 2694
By: Villarreal; Ratliff (Duncan)
Education
5/10/2013
Engrossed

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

H.B. 2694 seeks to provide an enhanced opportunity for Texas students to obtain credit by examination for courses or for grade levels. The purpose of these enhanced opportunities to advance is to allow students who have demonstrated knowledge of a subject matter, or demonstrated that they are achieving at a level that is above their existing grade level, to advance academically rather than having to remain in a course of grade level that is insufficiently challenging to the student.

H.B. 2694 amends current law relating to the provision of credit by examination for public school students.

H.B. 2694 amends current law relating to the provision of credit by examination for public school students.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 25.092, Education Code, by adding Subsection (a-2), to provide that Subsection (a) (relating to requiring that a student meet a minimum level of attendance to receive credit for a class) does not apply to a student who receives credit by examination for a class as provided by Section 28.023.

SECTION 2. Amends Section 28.023, Education Code, as follows:

Sec. 28.023. CREDIT BY EXAMINATION. (a) Requires each school district to select, if available, at least four State Board of Education (SBOE)-approved examinations for acceleration for each subject. Requires that the examinations selected by a district, if approved by SBOE, include:

(1) advanced placement examinations administered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service; and

(2) examinations administered through the College-Level Examination Program.

(b) Requires a school district to give a student in a primary grade level credit for a grade level and advance the student one grade level on the basis of a SBOE-approved examination for acceleration if certain criteria are met, including if the student scores in the 80th, rather than 90th, percentile or above on each section of the examination;

(c) Requires a school district to give a student in grade level six or above credit for a subject on the basis of a SBOE-approved examination for credit in the subject if the student scores in the 80th, rather than 90th, percentile or above on

the SBOE-approved examination or if the student achieves a score as provided by Subsection (c-1). Requires the district, if a student is given credit in a subject on the basis of an examination, to enter the examination score on the student's transcript, and provides that the student is not required to take an end-of-course assessment instrument adopted under Section 39.023(c) (relating to requiring the Texas Education Agency to adopt end-of-course assessment instruments for certain secondary-level courses) for that subject.

(c-1) Requires a school district to give a student in grade level six or above credit for a subject if the student scores:

(1) a three or higher on a SBOE-approved advanced placement examination administered by the College Board and Educational Testing Service; or

(2) a scaled score of 60 or higher on a SBOE-approved examination administered through the College-Level Examination Program.

(d) Requires each district to administer each SBOE-approved examination selected by the district:

(1) not later than the 30th day after the date the district receives a written request from a student or the student's parent or guardian, if the examination is capable of being administered electronically; or

(2) not fewer than three times each year, rather than not less than once a year, at times to be determined by SBOE, if the examination is not capable of being administered electronically.

(e) Prohibits examinations administered under Subsection (d)(1) from being administered to a student more than two times each year.

(f) Prohibits a student from attempting more than two times to receive credit for a particular subject on the basis of a SBOE-approved examination for credit in that subject.

(g) Requires a student, if the student fails to achieve the designated score described by Subsection (c) or (c-1) on an applicable examination described by Subsection (c) or (c-1) for a subject before the beginning of the school year in which the student would ordinarily be required to enroll in a course in that subject in accordance with the school district's prescribed course sequence, to satisfactorily complete the course to receive credit for the course.

SECTION 3. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2013-2014 school year.

SECTION 4. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2013.