

SUBJECT: Continuing an adult high school and industry certification charter school

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — M. González

WITNESSES: For — Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Mary Avila and Ines Quintanilla, Goodwill Excel Center; Monty Exter, The Association of Texas Professional Educators; Ted Delisi; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chandra Villanueva, Center for Public Policy Priorities; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Jerod Patterson, Texas Rural Education Association)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Heather Mauze and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 29.259 establishes an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program to provide services and instruction below the college level for adults by a nonprofit entity.

DIGEST: CSHB 1051 would expand the adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school program operated by a nonprofit entity from a pilot to a permanent program.

The bill would lower the age of eligible enrollees from 19 years old to 18. It would allow the enrollment of persons who had earned a high school equivalency certificate, but would require priority admission to a person who had not earned a certificate. The bill also would expand the definition

of a "student at risk for dropping out of school" for whom school districts must provide compensatory, intensive, or accelerated instruction to include a student who, regardless of age, participated in the high school diploma and industry certification program.

The bill would require the adult education program to use an instructional model in which at least 75 percent of instruction was delivered by a teacher in an in-person, interactive classroom setting. The program would have to provide support services to students, including free child care, certain life coaching services, mental health counseling, and instructional support for students with identified disabilities or impairments.

If money was appropriated for a state fiscal year for expansion of the program, the nonprofit granted a charter for the program would have to request approval for an expansion by June 30 of that fiscal year.

The nonprofit would be entitled to funding for all students through the Foundation School Program equal to the amount of funding for students at an open-enrollment charter school.

The bill would require each school district and charter school to annually report through the Public Education Information Management System (PEIMS) the number of students who were enrolled in a high school equivalency program, a dropout recovery school, or an adult education program provided under a high school diploma and industry certification charter school program who were:

- between the ages of 18 and 26;
- had not previously been reported as dropouts, and
- had enrolled in the program after not attending school for at least nine months.

Such a student would be reported through PEIMS as having previously dropped out of school and could not be considered to have dropped out from the district or campus in which they were last enrolled for purposes of the public school accountability system. As soon as practicable after the

bill's effective date, the commissioner of education would be required to update PEIMS as necessary to accommodate the reporting required by the bill.

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, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have an estimated negative impact to general revenue related funds of about \$2.4 million through fiscal 2020-21.