

- SUBJECT:** Requiring dual credit agreements to address academic advising
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 11 ayes — C. Turner, Stucky, Button, Frullo, Howard, E. Johnson, Pacheco, Schaefer, Smithee, Walle, Wilson
- 0 nays
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 11 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** *On House companion bill, HB 2197:*
For — Jacob Faire, Texas Association of Community Colleges; *(Registered, but did not testify:* Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Dana Chiodo, CompTIA; Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Daniel Womack, Dow; Leticia Van de Putte, Pharr-San Juan Alamo ISD; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Nataly Saucedo, United Ways of Texas)
- Against — None
- On — Melissa Henderson, Educate Texas; *(Registered, but did not testify:* Rex Peebles, Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 28.009 requires each school district to implement a program under which students may earn the equivalent of at least 12 semester credit hours of college credit in high school. On request, a public institution of higher education is required to assist the school district in developing and implementing the program. These credit hours may be earned through dual credit courses.
- Sec. 28.025(c-1) establishes that a student can earn an endorsement on the student's transcript by successfully completing curriculum requirements for that endorsement adopted by the State Board of Education.

DIGEST: SB 1276 would require any agreement, including a memorandum of understanding or articulation agreement, developed between a school district and a public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to:

- establish common advising strategies and terminology related to dual credit and college readiness;
- provide for the alignment of endorsements offered by the district and dual credit courses offered under the agreement that applied toward those endorsements with postsecondary pathways and credentials at the institution and industry certifications; and
- identify tools, including those developed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the Texas Workforce Commission, to assist school counselors, students, and families in selecting endorsements offered by the district and dual credit courses offered under the agreement.

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, and would apply only to an agreement entered into or renewed on or after that date.

SUPPORTERS SAY: SB 1276 would improve dual credit agreements between school districts and partnering colleges by adding requirements to address coursework advising, which would help foster student success and reduce inefficiencies. Inadequate advising and course alignment in high schools can impair the ability of students to select the dual credit courses that would most benefit them. The bill would improve advising by identifying the best methods for selecting classes that were relevant to students' futures and implementing those advising methods in each school district.

OPPONENTS SAY: No concerns identified.