

1-1 By: Clardy (Senate Sponsor - Garcia) H.B. No. 2628  
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 27, 2015;  
 1-3 April 28, 2015, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher  
 1-4 Education; May 13, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote:  
 1-5 Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 13, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED  
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the development and alignment by the Texas Higher  
 1-18 Education Coordinating Board of curricula for certain educational  
 1-19 programs.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 61.823, Education Code, is amended by  
 1-22 adding Subsection (e) to read as follows:

1-23 (e) The board, with the assistance of an appropriate  
 1-24 advisory committee, shall periodically review each field of study  
 1-25 curriculum to ensure alignment with student interest and academic  
 1-26 and industry needs.

1-27 SECTION 2. Subchapter S, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
 1-28 amended by adding Section 61.8235 to read as follows:

1-29 Sec. 61.8235. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAM OF  
 1-30 STUDY CURRICULA. (a) The board, with the assistance of  
 1-31 institutions of higher education, career and technical education  
 1-32 experts, and college and career readiness experts, shall establish  
 1-33 alignment between the college and career readiness standards and  
 1-34 the knowledge, skills, and abilities students are expected to  
 1-35 demonstrate in career and technical education by establishing  
 1-36 programs of study that:

1-37 (1) incorporate rigorous college and career readiness  
 1-38 standards, including career and technical education standards that  
 1-39 address both academic and technical content;

1-40 (2) support attainment of employability and career  
 1-41 readiness skills;

1-42 (3) progress in content specificity by beginning with  
 1-43 all aspects of an industry or career cluster and leading to more  
 1-44 occupationally specific instruction or by preparing students for  
 1-45 ongoing postsecondary career preparation;

1-46 (4) incorporate multiple entry and exit points with  
 1-47 portable demonstrations of technical or career competency, which  
 1-48 may include credit transfer agreements or industry-recognized  
 1-49 certifications; and

1-50 (5) culminate in the attainment of:

1-51 (A) an industry-recognized certification,  
 1-52 credential, or license;

1-53 (B) a registered apprenticeship or  
 1-54 credit-bearing postsecondary certificate; or

1-55 (C) an associate or baccalaureate degree.

1-56 (b) The board, with the assistance of advisory committees  
 1-57 composed of representatives of secondary education, postsecondary  
 1-58 education, business and industry, other state agencies or licensing  
 1-59 bodies, and other career and technical education experts, shall  
 1-60 develop career and technical education program of study curricula.  
 1-61 Each advisory committee shall have at least one representative from

2-1 each identified group. The advisory committees shall identify the  
2-2 knowledge, skills, and abilities required to prepare students for  
2-3 high-skill, high-wage jobs in high-demand occupations.

2-4 (c) In developing program of study curricula under  
2-5 Subsection (b), the board shall pursue a management strategy that  
2-6 maximizes efficiency, including a management strategy that  
2-7 provides for the decentralization of advisory committees to enable  
2-8 concurrent development of curricula for different programs of  
2-9 study.

2-10 (d) The board may partner with the Texas Education Agency,  
2-11 the Texas Workforce Commission, and other state agencies to develop  
2-12 programs of study under this section.

2-13 (e) A program of study established under this section must:

2-14 (1) focus on the current and future needs of employers  
2-15 in this state;

2-16 (2) clearly define career pathways with logical entry  
2-17 and exit points for students;

2-18 (3) indicate the types of careers and the names of  
2-19 certifications or licenses aligned to the program of study;

2-20 (4) provide for students who begin a program of study  
2-21 at a public junior college, public state college, or public  
2-22 technical institute to transfer to another public junior college,  
2-23 public state college, or public technical institute without having  
2-24 to repeat classes or incur significant interruption of their  
2-25 ability to progress through the program of study;

2-26 (5) be designed to meet the needs of business and  
2-27 industry with a high degree of commonality across the state;

2-28 (6) align with the college and career readiness  
2-29 standards; and

2-30 (7) be revised on a reoccurring schedule, not to  
2-31 exceed once every five years, to ensure the programs of study remain  
2-32 current and relevant to the needs of business and industry.

2-33 (f) A student enrolled in a board-established program of  
2-34 study who transfers from a public junior college, public state  
2-35 college, or public technical institute to another public junior  
2-36 college, public state college, or public technical institute that  
2-37 offers a similar program, regardless of whether the institution has  
2-38 adopted the board-established program of study, shall receive  
2-39 academic credit from the institution to which the student  
2-40 transferred for each of the courses that the student has  
2-41 successfully completed in the program of study curriculum. Unless  
2-42 otherwise required by the Commission on Colleges of the Southern  
2-43 Association of Colleges and Schools, the student may complete the  
2-44 program of study at the institution to which the student  
2-45 transferred by completing only the remaining number of semester  
2-46 credit hours the student would need to complete the program of study  
2-47 at the institution from which the student transferred.

2-48 (g) The board, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas  
2-49 Workforce Commission may adopt rules as necessary for the  
2-50 administration of this section.

2-51 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

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