

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a pilot program under which a licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to public high school students.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0764 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0764. MEDICAL DUAL CREDIT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The board shall develop and implement a pilot program under which a licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to high school students enrolled in a school district in partnership with the district.

(b) The board shall select one licensed hospital located in a county that borders the United Mexican States and that has a population of at least 700,000 and not more than 800,000 to participate in the pilot program. The hospital must be accredited by The Joint Commission and:

(1) have been issued:

(A) a certificate of approval to offer a program of instruction by the Texas Workforce Commission under Subchapter C, Chapter 132; or

(B) a certificate of authority to award a degree for a program of study by the board under Subchapter G of this chapter;

1           (2) be accredited to offer a degree program by the  
2 appropriate recognized regional accrediting agency; or

3           (3) must:

4           (A) have entered into a partnership with an  
5 institution of higher education to offer dual credit courses under  
6 the pilot program; and

7           (B) be seeking authorization to offer a program  
8 of instruction or study as described by Subdivision (1) or  
9 accreditation to offer a degree program as described by Subdivision  
10 (2).

11          (c) The licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b):

12           (1) may offer under the pilot program only dual credit  
13 courses that are in the curriculum of the hospital's program of  
14 instruction or study or degree program described by Subsection  
15 (b)(1), (2), or (3), as applicable; and

16           (2) subject to Subdivision (1) and Subsection (d),  
17 shall determine the content of each dual credit course offered  
18 under the pilot program with the goal of ensuring that the course is  
19 transferable for course credit applied toward a certificate or  
20 degree at an institution of higher education.

21          (d) The licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b)  
22 must design the dual credit courses offered under the pilot program  
23 to enable students to earn a variety of certifications,  
24 certificates, and degrees, including at least one certification or  
25 certificate while the student is in high school. The available  
26 certifications, certificates, and degrees must be selected based  
27 on:

1           (1) the needs of the hospital;

2           (2) the terms of the hospital's agreements with  
3 partnering school districts to provide the dual credit courses  
4 under the pilot program; and

5           (3) the goal of preparing students for employment in  
6 the health care field.

7           (e) A student enrolled in a dual credit course offered under  
8 the pilot program is entitled to the benefits of the Foundation  
9 School Program for the time spent by the student on that course, in  
10 accordance with rules adopted by the commissioner of education.

11           (f) A student may not be charged for tuition, fees, or  
12 required textbooks or other instructional materials for a dual  
13 credit course offered under the pilot program. The school district  
14 in which the student is enrolled is responsible for the cost of the  
15 student's tuition, fees, or required textbooks or other  
16 instructional materials for that course to the extent that those  
17 amounts are not waived by the licensed hospital.

18           (g) The board may adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
19 section.

20           SECTION 2. Section 61.0764, Education Code, as added by  
21 this Act, applies beginning with the 2017-2018 school year.

22           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2937 was passed by the House on May 9, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 139, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2937 on May 26, 2017, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2937 on May 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 2, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2937

I certify that H.B. No. 2937 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 25, Nays 6; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2937 on May 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 24, Nays 7.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor