

By: Canales

H.B. No. 2937

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment of a pilot program under which a
3 licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to public high
4 school students.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 28.0091 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 28.0091. MEDICAL DUAL CREDIT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The
9 agency shall develop and implement a pilot program under which a
10 licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to high school
11 students enrolled in a school district in partnership with the
12 district.

13 (b) The agency shall select one licensed hospital to
14 participate in the pilot program. The hospital must be accredited
15 by The Joint Commission and:

16 (1) have been issued:

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

20 (B) a certificate of authority to award a degree
21 for a program of study by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
22 Board under Subchapter G, Chapter 61; or

23 (2) be accredited to offer a degree program by a
24 recognized accrediting agency, as that term is defined by Section

1 [61.003.](#)

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

3 (1) may offer under the pilot program only dual credit
4 courses that are in the curriculum of the hospital's authorized
5 program of instruction or study or accredited degree program, as
6 applicable; and

7 (2) subject to Subdivision (1) and Subsection (d),
8 shall determine the content of each dual credit course offered
9 under the pilot program.

10 (d) The licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b)
11 must design the dual credit courses offered under the pilot program
12 to enable students to earn a variety of certifications. The
13 available certifications must be selected based on:

14 (1) the needs of the hospital;

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

18 (3) the goal of preparing students for employment in
19 the health care field.

20 (e) The licensed hospital selected under Subsection (b) may
21 not charge a student for a dual credit course offered under the
22 pilot program an amount greater than the average amount charged by
23 other providers for a similar course offered in the same region as
24 the dual credit course, if any.

25 (f) From funds appropriated for the purpose, the agency
26 shall provide to the licensed hospital selected under Subsection
27 (b) funding for each contact hour attributable to the enrollment of

1 a public high school student in a dual credit course offered under
2 the pilot program in an amount equal to the amount allocated for an
3 equivalent contact hour to a public junior college under Section
4 130.003.

5 (g) The commissioner may adopt rules as necessary to
6 implement this section.

7 SECTION 2. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
8 school year.

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