

1-1 By: Lucio III (Senate Sponsor - Lucio) H.B. No. 3706
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 10, 2017;
 1-3 May 12, 2017, read first time and referred to Committee on
 1-4 Education; May 22, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 22, 2017, 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	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18			X	

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to certain alternative education programs designed to
 1-22 address workforce development needs for at-risk students.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Section 29.081, Education Code, is amended by
 1-25 amending Subsection (e) and adding Subsections (e-1) and (e-2) to
 1-26 read as follows:

1-27 (e) A school district may use a private or public
 1-28 community-based dropout recovery education program to provide
 1-29 alternative education programs for students at risk of dropping out
 1-30 of school. The program may be offered:

1-31 (1) at a campus; or

1-32 (2) through the use of an Internet online program that
 1-33 leads to a high school diploma and prepares the student to enter the
 1-34 workforce.

1-35 (e-1) A campus-based dropout recovery education program
 1-36 [The programs] must:

1-37 (1) provide not less than four hours of instructional
 1-38 time per day;

1-39 (2) employ as faculty and administrators persons with
 1-40 baccalaureate or advanced degrees;

1-41 (3) provide at least one instructor for each 28
 1-42 students;

1-43 (4) perform satisfactorily according to performance
 1-44 indicators and accountability standards adopted for alternative
 1-45 education programs by the commissioner; and

1-46 (5) comply with this title and rules adopted under
 1-47 this title except as otherwise provided by this subsection.

1-48 (e-2) An Internet online dropout recovery education program
 1-49 must:

1-50 (1) include as a part of its curriculum credentials,
 1-51 certifications, or other course offerings that relate directly to
 1-52 employment opportunities in the state;

1-53 (2) employ as faculty and administrators persons with
 1-54 baccalaureate or advanced degrees;

1-55 (3) provide an academic coach and local advocate for
 1-56 each student;

1-57 (4) use an individual learning plan to monitor each
 1-58 student's progress;

1-59 (5) establish satisfactory requirements for the
 1-60 monthly progress of students according to standards set by the
 1-61 commissioner;

2-1 (6) provide a monthly report to the student's school
2-2 district regarding the student's progress;

2-3 (7) perform satisfactorily according to performance
2-4 indicators and accountability standards adopted for alternative
2-5 education programs by the commissioner; and

2-6 (8) comply with this title and rules adopted under
2-7 this title except as otherwise provided by this subsection.

2-8 SECTION 2. Sections 29.0822(b) and (c), Education Code, are
2-9 amended to read as follows:

2-10 (b) To enable a school district to provide a program under
2-11 this section that meets the needs of students described by
2-12 Subsection (a), a school district that meets application
2-13 requirements may:

2-14 (1) provide flexibility in the number of hours each
2-15 day a student attends;

2-16 (2) provide flexibility in the number of days each
2-17 week a student attends; [~~or~~]

2-18 (3) allow a student to enroll in less than or more than
2-19 a full course load; or

2-20 (4) allow a student to enroll in a dropout recovery
2-21 program in which courses are conducted online.

2-22 (c) Except in the case of a course designed for a student
2-23 described by Subsection (a)(3) or enrolled in a course described by
2-24 Subsection (b)(4), a course offered in a program under this section
2-25 must provide for at least the same number of instructional hours as
2-26 required for a course offered in a program that meets the required
2-27 minimum number of instructional days under Section 25.081 and the
2-28 required length of school day under Section 25.082.

2-29 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2017-2018
2-30 school year.

2-31 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-32 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-33 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-34 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-35 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

2-36 * * * * *