

**LEGISLATIVE BUDGET BOARD**  
**Austin, Texas**

**FISCAL NOTE, 85TH LEGISLATIVE REGULAR SESSION**

**May 25, 2017**

**TO:** Honorable Joe Straus, Speaker of the House, House of Representatives

**FROM:** Ursula Parks, Director, Legislative Budget Board

**IN RE: HB2937** by Canales (Relating to the establishment of a pilot program under which a licensed hospital may offer dual credit courses to public high school students.), **As Passed 2nd House**

**No significant fiscal implication to the State is anticipated.**

Under the provisions of the bill, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) would be required to develop and implement the medical dual credit program, through which hospital meeting certain qualifications, selected by THECB, could offer dual credit courses to high school students under a partnership with a school district or institution of higher education. Students participating in the medical dual credit program could not be charged for tuition, fees, or required textbooks or other instructional materials; school districts would be required to cover these costs to the extent that they were not waived by the hospital offering the program. Participating students would be entitled to the benefits of the Foundation School Program for the time spent in the dual credit course, in accordance with rules adopted by the Commissioner of the Texas Education Agency (TEA).

According to THECB and TEA, there would be costs associated with these activities, including developing and implementing the pilot program, adopting necessary rules, and developing data elements related to the program. For the purposes of this analysis, it is assumed the costs to THECB and TEA associated with the bill would not be significant and could be absorbed within existing resources. To the extent that the hospital selected to participate in the pilot program partners with public institutions of higher education to offer these dual credit courses, there may be a cost to the state; however it is assumed these costs would not be significant and could be absorbed within existing resources.

The bill also relates to certain academic programs and projects undertaken by public institutions of higher education at an off-campus academic or research site or a similar location. Based on the analysis provided by institutions of higher education and THECB, duties and responsibilities associated with implementing the provisions of the bill could be accomplished by utilizing existing resources.

**Local Government Impact**

According to TEA, the impact to school districts would depend upon whether participating hospitals waive relevant course costs including tuition and textbooks, and whether Foundation

School Program funding would cover other costs of the pilot program. TEA also assumes that participating school districts would be required to provide supervisory staff and transportation to and from the hospital.

**Source Agencies:** 710 Texas A&M University System Administrative and General Offices, 720 The University of Texas System Administration, 781 Higher Education Coordinating Board, 701 Texas Education Agency, 320 Texas Workforce Commission, 768 Texas Tech University System Administration, 769 University of North Texas System Administration

**LBB Staff:** UP, AKU, THo, JJ, RC