

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 404

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to higher education curriculum review teams to review public school curriculum standards for college readiness purposes.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 28.0025 to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0025. HIGHER EDUCATION CURRICULUM REVIEW TEAMS.

(a) In this section, "institution of higher education" and "private or independent institution of higher education" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003.

(b) For each subject undergoing a review for the purpose of identifying and adopting the essential knowledge and skills of a subject of the required curriculum under Section 28.002, the commissioner of higher education shall appoint a higher education curriculum review team to review and make recommendations to the State Board of Education concerning the essential knowledge and skills to ensure that proposed essential knowledge and skills:

(1) are factually accurate and aligned with contemporary scholarship;

(2) serve to prepare students for college; and

(3) serve appropriate instructional purposes.

(c) Each higher education curriculum review team shall consist of not fewer than five and not more than 10 faculty members of institutions of higher education or private or independent

1 institutions of higher education. Each member appointed to a team
2 must have:

3 (1) at least five years of higher education teaching
4 experience in the subject under review and a terminal degree in that
5 subject; or

6 (2) at least five years of higher education teaching
7 experience in the field of education and a doctoral degree in
8 education.

9 (d) For each higher education curriculum review team, an
10 institution of higher education or private or independent
11 institution of higher education may nominate one faculty member
12 qualified under Subsection (c). A nomination made under this
13 subsection must be submitted to the commissioner of higher
14 education together with a document of not more than one page
15 detailing the faculty member's experience, including specific
16 experience with the subject under review by the team.

17 (e) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, in
18 collaboration with the commissioner of higher education, shall
19 develop and post on the board's Internet website a blind scoring
20 system, including the criteria on which the scoring is based, for
21 ranking nominations made under Subsection (d).

22 (f) The commissioner of higher education, based on the
23 system developed under Subsection (e), shall make the appointments
24 to each higher education curriculum review team from among persons
25 nominated by institutions of higher education or private or
26 independent institutions of higher education under this section.

27 (g) Notwithstanding Subsections (d) and (f), if the subject

1 under review by a higher education curriculum review team is career
2 and technical education, at least one member of the team must be
3 selected from each of the following institutions:

- 4 (1) Texas State Technical College System; and
- 5 (2) Lamar Institute of Technology.

6 (h) In selecting appointees for a higher education
7 curriculum review team, the commissioner of higher education shall
8 attempt to achieve a balanced combination of educational
9 perspectives.

10 (i) Each higher education curriculum review team shall,
11 before final identification and adoption of the essential knowledge
12 and skills by the State Board of Education, make recommendations to
13 the State Board of Education concerning the essential knowledge and
14 skills.

15 (j) The agency shall post on the agency's Internet website
16 the recommendations of each higher education curriculum review
17 team.

18 (k) The commissioner of higher education shall coordinate
19 with the State Board of Education as necessary for the
20 administration of this section.

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