

SUBJECT: Including certain postsecondary readiness exams for school accountability

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 11 ayes — Huberty, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Allen

1 present not voting — Bernal

WITNESSES: For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Jodi Duron, Elgin ISD; Drew Scheberle, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce)

Against — Jennifer Stratton; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jane McFarland, League of Women Voters of Texas; Kristi Hassett, Theresa Trevino, and Sheri Hicks, Texans Advocating For Meaningful Student Assessments; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; and seven individuals)

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jamie Crowe and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency; Claudia Pannell)

BACKGROUND: Education Code sec. 39.0238 requires the Texas Education Agency to adopt or develop postsecondary readiness exams for Algebra II and English III that a school district may administer at the district's option. Sec. 39.0238(f) prohibits results of those exams from being used for the public school accountability system.

DIGEST: CSHB 843 would eliminate a statutory provision that prevents the Texas Education Agency from using results from end-of-course exams in Algebra II and English III for the purposes of school district or campus accountability. In evaluating the performance of high school campuses and districts with high schools, the bill would require a performance

indicator for students who satisfied the relevant performance standards on those exams or who successfully completed an Algebra II or English III course with a grade of at least the equivalent of 70 on a scale of 100.

The bill would revise an indicator for students who successfully completed a practicum or internship approved by the State Board of Education to account for the students, rather than the percentage of students, who completed the practicum or internship.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 843 would give school districts and high school campuses credit in the public school accountability system for students who take courses such as Algebra II and English III that demonstrate college and career readiness. The bill could boost the A-F ratings for smaller districts and campuses by giving them credit for producing college-ready students. At a time when many Texas high school graduates are not ready for college studies, the state should encourage and reward schools where students are taking and passing these challenging courses.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

CSHB 843 could place certain districts and high school campuses at a disadvantage in the school accountability system. In some schools, access to higher-level courses could be limited because the schools' main focus is on getting educationally disadvantaged students and English learners to pass required courses such as Algebra I and English I and II.