

By: Bohac

H.B. No. 588

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development for public school teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.416 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.416. COMPUTER SCIENCE CERTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) The commissioner shall establish a computer science certification grant program to encourage teachers to:

(1) become certified as computer science teachers; and

(2) continue professional development in computer science education.

(b) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall make grants to eligible providers that offer:

(1) training for computer science certification for teachers in accordance with certification requirements adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification; and

(2) professional development for currently certified computer science teachers to ensure certified teachers maintain working knowledge of current industry standard tools and resources.

(c) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a provider must:

(1) be:

1 (A) an institution of higher education;

2 (B) a regional education service center;

3 (C) an independent school district or a
4 partnership of multiple independent school districts; or

5 (D) a nonprofit entity approved by the
6 commissioner that has demonstrated experience in providing
7 professional development in the area of educational technology; and

8 (2) meet eligibility standards established by
9 commissioner rule.

10 (d) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this
11 section must:

12 (1) provide the training or professional development
13 described by Subsection (b) to teachers in at least three high-need
14 school districts, as determined by commissioner rule; and

15 (2) in each school year, successfully provide the
16 training necessary to enable at least 10 teachers to receive
17 computer science certification.

18 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
19 implement this section.

20 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2017, the
21 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program
22 required under Section 21.416, Education Code, as added by this
23 Act.

24 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
25 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
26 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
27 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.