

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 2730

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the authority of the commissioner of education to create career and technical credentials and certificates that may be earned through a career and technology education program and to a study to identify unmet needs in career and technology education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 29.1821 and 29.193 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.1821. COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY TO CREATE CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATES. (a) To address unmet workforce needs and enhance student competitiveness in the labor market, the commissioner may create career and technical credentials or certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program.

(a-1) Not later than September 1, 2020, the commissioner shall create at least one credential or certificate in information technology in accordance with the results of the study conducted under Section 29.193. This subsection expires September 1, 2021.

(b) A credential or certificate created under this section must:

(1) be aligned with state and regional workforce needs in the applicable field; and

(2) serve as an entry point for employment or a bridge

1 to postsecondary education in the applicable field.

2 (c) The commissioner may consult with relevant stakeholders
3 in creating credentials or certificates under this section.

4 (d) The agency shall post on the agency's Internet website
5 information regarding any credentials or certificates created by
6 the commissioner under this section.

7 Sec. 29.193. STUDY AND REPORT TO IDENTIFY UNMET NEEDS. (a)
8 The agency shall conduct a study to identify unmet needs in career
9 and technology education programs offered to public high school
10 students. The agency shall include in the study programs in the
11 information technology career cluster and in any other career
12 cluster selected by the agency.

13 (b) The study must, for each career cluster included in the
14 study:

15 (1) evaluate:

16 (A) the industry-recognized credentials or
17 certificates in the career cluster currently being offered to
18 public high school students through career and technology education
19 programs; and

20 (B) the knowledge and skills in the career
21 cluster necessary to meet state and regional workforce needs; and

22 (2) identify:

23 (A) any gaps between the industry-recognized
24 credentials or certificates identified under Subdivision (1)(A)
25 and the knowledge and skills identified under Subdivision (1)(B);
26 and

27 (B) any knowledge or skills that could be

1 incorporated into career and technology education programs in the
2 career cluster to increase students' marketability in that field
3 after graduation from high school.

4 (c) Not later than September 1, 2019, the agency shall
5 submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, and speaker of the
6 house of representatives a report on the study and any
7 recommendations for legislative or other action. The report must
8 identify each credential or certificate, including at least one
9 credential or certificate in information technology, to be created
10 by the commissioner under Section 29.1821 as a result of the study.

11 (d) This section expires September 1, 2020.

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