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et al.

H.B. No. 584

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the development of a state information technology
3 credential offered by public junior colleges or public technical
4 institutes to address shortages in the state information resources
5 workforce.

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

7 SECTION 1. Section 2054.061(b), Government Code, is amended
8 to read as follows:

9 (b) The department shall annually analyze:

10 (1) the department's staffing needs;

11 (2) the need for and cost-effectiveness of contracting
12 for consultants and outside staff;

13 (3) whether the department could use department staff
14 to accomplish tasks proposed for the consultants and outside staff;
15 ~~and~~

16 (4) whether and what type of training or additional
17 resources are necessary for the department to use the department's
18 own staff to accomplish tasks proposed for the consultants or
19 outside staff; and

20 (5) whether entering into an agreement with a public
21 junior college district or public technical institute under Section
22 2054.0701 is appropriate to assist the department in meeting
23 staffing needs.

24 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is

1 amended by adding Section 2054.0701 to read as follows:

2 Sec. 2054.0701. STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CREDENTIAL.

3 (a) In this section, "public technical institute" has the meaning
4 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

5 (b) The department may enter into an agreement with a public
6 junior college district under Section 130.0081, Education Code, or
7 a public technical institute under Section 135.06, Education Code,
8 or other applicable law to offer a program leading to a state
9 information technology credential to address shortages in the state
10 information resources workforce.

11 (c) A program offered under this section must:

12 (1) be approved by the Texas Higher Education
13 Coordinating Board in accordance with Section 61.0512, Education
14 Code;

15 (2) develop the knowledge and skills necessary for an
16 entry-level information technology position in a state agency; and

17 (3) include a one-year apprenticeship with:

18 (A) the department;

19 (B) another relevant state agency;

20 (C) an organization working on a major
21 information resources project; or

22 (D) a regional network security center
23 established under Section 2059.202.

24 (d) The executive director shall update the department's
25 intra-agency career ladder program to ensure that an associate
26 degree together with a credential awarded under this section may be
27 substituted for a four-year baccalaureate degree.

1 (e) The classification officer in the office of the state
2 auditor shall review the state's position classification plan to
3 determine whether an associate degree together with a credential
4 awarded under this section may be substituted for a four-year
5 baccalaureate degree and revise relevant job descriptions
6 accordingly.

7 (f) If a program offered under this section is not fully
8 funded through tuition and other money of the public junior college
9 district or public technical institute available for the purpose,
10 the department may:

11 (1) use any money available to the department for the
12 purpose to offer a program under this section; and

13 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations
14 from any public or private source for purposes of offering a program
15 under this section.

16 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.