

By: Springer

S.B. No. 487

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2
3 Relating to authorizing of any Community College District to offer
4 a baccalaureate degree program in the field of education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter L, Chapter 130, Education Code, is
7 amended by amending Section 130.303 to read as follows:

8 Section 130.303 AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN BACCALAUREATE
9 DEGREE PROGRAMS. (a) The coordinating board shall authorize
10 baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of applied science,
11 applied technology, and nursing at each public junior college that
12 previously participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate
13 degree programs.

14 (b) The coordinating board may authorize baccalaureate
15 degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a
16 degree program in the field of applied science, including a degree
17 program in the field of applied science with an emphasis in early
18 childhood education, applied technology, or nursing and have
19 demonstrated a workforce need.

20 (c) The coordinating board may authorize a baccalaureate
21 degree program in the field of general education for the purposes of
22 graduating licensed teachers at any public junior college.

23 (d) The limitations prescribed by Section 130.306 and
24 Section 130.307 do not apply to a baccalaureate degree program in

1 the field of general education for the purposes of graduating
2 licensed teachers under this section.

3 (e) Not later than January 1, 2025, the coordinating board
4 shall prepare a progress report on the baccalaureate degree program
5 in the field of general education teacher established under this
6 section. Not later than January 1, 2027, the coordinating board
7 shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of the degree program,
8 including any recommendations for legislative action regarding the
9 offering of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of education
10 by a public junior college. The coordinating board shall deliver a
11 copy of each report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
12 speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the standing
13 committee of each house of the legislature with primary
14 jurisdiction over higher education, and the primary author and
15 primary sponsor of the bill. This subsection expires January 1,
16 2028.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.