

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 1233

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to encourage the earning of credentials of value at public institutions of higher education.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 61.09093 and 61.09094 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.09093. CREDENTIALS OF VALUE. (a) In this section, "credential of value" means an industry-recognized work-based learning credential in a high-demand, high-growth industry leading to quality career opportunities, as determined by the Texas Workforce Commission.

(b) The board shall encourage:

(1) completion of credentials of value in satisfaction of certain required coursework under degree or certificate programs offered by institutions of higher education;

(2) memoranda of understanding between institutions of higher education that offer credentials of value;

(3) transferability of course credit, particularly with regard to course credit leading to a credential of value;

(4) development of degree and certificate programs that enable students to earn a degree or certificate by completing parts of the program at different institutions of higher education;

and

1 (5) applicability of grant, scholarship, and other
2 financial aid money toward costs related to earning credentials of
3 value.

4 (c) The board shall award a successful outcomes distinction
5 designation to an institution of higher education if at least eight
6 percent of the institution's graduating class for the academic year
7 earns a credential of value.

8 (d) The board, in coordination with the Texas Workforce
9 Commission, shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

10 Sec. 61.09094. CREDENTIALS OF VALUE TASK FORCE. (a) In
11 this section, "credential of value" has the meaning assigned by
12 Section 61.09093.

13 (b) The board shall establish a task force to:

14 (1) study and make recommendations related to
15 promoting students earning credentials of value; and

16 (2) develop a model framework to:

17 (A) establish accredited degree and certificate
18 programs that enable students to earn a degree or certificate by
19 completing parts of the program at different institutions of higher
20 education; and

21 (B) enable students to:

22 (i) earn credit toward the completion of
23 degree and certificate programs described by Paragraph (A) while in
24 high school;

25 (ii) earn at least two credentials of value
26 in a baccalaureate degree program described by Paragraph (A); and

27 (iii) graduate with at least two

1 credentials of value and a baccalaureate degree from a program
2 described by Paragraph (A) in four years or less after graduating
3 from high school.

4 (c) The task force must include representatives from:

5 (1) a school district;

6 (2) a recognized accrediting agency;

7 (3) a general academic teaching institution;

8 (4) a public junior college;

9 (5) a public technical institute; and

10 (6) the Texas Workforce Commission.

11 (d) Not later than March 1, 2026, the task force shall
12 prepare and submit to the coordinating board, the Texas Education
13 Agency, and the legislature a preliminary report on the model
14 framework and any recommendations for legislative or other action.

15 (e) Not later than September 1, 2026, the task force shall
16 submit to the coordinating board, the Texas Education Agency, and
17 the legislature a final report on the model framework and any
18 recommendations for legislative or other action.

19 (f) The task force is abolished and this section expires
20 September 1, 2027.

21 SECTION 2. Section 61.09093, Education Code, as added by
22 this Act, applies beginning with the 2025-2026 academic year.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
24 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
25 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
26 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
27 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.