

By: Hochberg

H.B. No. 26

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the certification of and training for school district financial officers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 44, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 44.011 to read as follows:

Sec. 44.011. SCHOOL DISTRICT FINANCIAL OFFICER; CERTIFICATION REQUIRED. (a) A school district employee responsible for the fiscal management of the district shall complete a professional certification course that includes professional business practices and provides recognized standards of professional competence for school business administrators, officials, and specialists in this state.

(b) A school district employee subject to this section shall attend a training session relating to the employee's responsibility for the fiscal management of a school district at least once each two-year period. The commissioner shall determine appropriate subject matter for and providers of training required under this subsection.

(c) A school district employee responsible for the fiscal management of the district who is a certified public accountant under Chapter 901, Occupations Code, is exempt from this section.

(d) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to implement this section.

1           SECTION 2. Not later than January 1, 2006, the Texas  
2 Education Agency shall provide school districts with a list of  
3 approved certification courses and training programs for purposes  
4 of Section 44.011, Education Code, as added by this Act. A school  
5 district financial officer employed by a school district on or  
6 before January 1, 2006, must:

7                   (1) complete the certification course not later than  
8 July 1, 2006; and

9                   (2) complete the training program not later than July  
10 1, 2008.

11           SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with the 2006–2007  
12 school year.

13           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect on the 91st day after the last day of the  
18 legislative session.