

By: King of Zavala

H.B. No. 2288

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the award of graduate, postgraduate, or professional
3 degree program course credit by public institutions of higher
4 education to certain school district employees.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 51, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 51.9315 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 51.9315. APPLICATION OF PREVIOUSLY EARNED COURSE
9 CREDIT TOWARD ADVANCED DEGREE. (a) In this section, "educator" has
10 the meaning assigned by Section 5.001.

11 (b) An educator who is admitted to a graduate, postgraduate,
12 or professional degree program at an institution of higher
13 education, as defined by Section 61.003, is entitled to be awarded
14 toward the degree requirements for that program course credit for
15 graduate, postgraduate, or professional program course work that
16 the educator successfully completed at an accredited public or
17 private institution of higher education at any time before
18 enrollment in the program if:

19 (1) the educator applies for the credit to be awarded
20 by the institution in the manner prescribed by the institution; and

21 (2) under the program's applicable course credit
22 policies, the educator would have been awarded credit for the
23 course work had the educator completed the course work after
24 enrollment in the program.

1 (c) Each institution of higher education to which
2 Subsection (b) applies shall adopt a procedure to be used by an
3 educator in applying for course credit under this section.

4 SECTION 2. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b) of
5 this section, the change in law made by this Act applies beginning
6 with the 2006 spring semester.

7 (b) Each public institution of higher education that offers
8 a graduate, postgraduate, or professional degree program shall
9 adopt the procedure required by Section 51.9315(c), Education Code,
10 as added by this Act, not later than December 31, 2005, to be
11 effective for the 2006 spring semester.

12 SECTION 3. 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, 2005.