

By: Keffer

H.B. No. 4245

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a pilot program to expand access to career and technical education partnerships in rural areas.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 12, Agriculture Code, is amended by adding Section 12.0271 to read as follows:

Sec. 12.0271. RURAL WORKFORCE INVESTMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

(a) In this section:

(1) "General academic teaching institution" and "public junior college" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(2) "Rural area" means:

(A) a county with a population of less than 100,000; or

(B) a municipality with a population of less than 50,000.

(b) Subject to available funding, the commissioner by rule shall develop a rural workforce investment pilot program to develop partnerships in rural areas among school districts, public junior colleges, general academic teaching institutions, and business and industry to provide greater access to career and technical education and industry certification to high school students in those areas.

(c) The department shall coordinate with the Texas

1 Workforce Commission, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating  
2 Board, and the Texas Education Agency in developing the pilot  
3 program.

4 (d) Students participating in the pilot program may receive  
5 at least 60 hours of college credit before high school graduation.

6 (e) A local workforce development board authorized by the  
7 Texas Workforce Commission may apply to participate in the pilot  
8 program if the workforce development board:

9 (1) serves a rural area of the state; and

10 (2) meets any other qualifications prescribed by the  
11 commissioner.

12 (f) To receive a grant under this section, an applicant must  
13 commit public or private funds matching the grant in a percentage  
14 set by the commissioner. The commissioner shall set the required  
15 percentage of matching funds based on the demonstrated economic  
16 capacity of the community served by the program to raise funds for  
17 the purpose of matching the grant, as determined by the  
18 commissioner.

19 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.