

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 2262
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2009; March 31, 2009, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
1-4 April 16, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,
1-5 Nays 0; April 16, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the administration of mathematics, science, and
1-9 technology teacher preparation academies at institutions of higher
1-10 education.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Section 21.462, Education Code, is transferred
1-13 to Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, redesignated as
1-14 Section 61.0766, Education Code, and amended to read as follows:

1-15 Sec. 61.0766 [~~21.462~~]. MATHEMATICS, SCIENCE, AND
1-16 TECHNOLOGY TEACHER PREPARATION ACADEMIES. (a) From funds
1-17 appropriated for that purpose, the board [~~Texas Higher Education~~
1-18 ~~Coordinating Board~~] shall establish academies at institutions of
1-19 higher education to improve the instructional skills of teachers
1-20 certified under Subchapter B, Chapter 21, and train students
1-21 enrolled in a teacher preparation program to perform at the highest
1-22 levels in mathematics, science, and technology. The
1-23 [~~coordinating~~] board may adopt rules as necessary to administer
1-24 this section.

1-25 (b) Before an institution of higher education establishes
1-26 an academy under this section, the institution must apply through a
1-27 competitive process, as determined by the board [~~Texas Higher~~
1-28 ~~Education Coordinating Board~~], and meet any requirements
1-29 established by the [~~coordinating~~] board for designation as an
1-30 academy under this section and continued funding. The
1-31 institution of higher education must have a teacher preparation
1-32 program approved by the State Board for Educator Certification or
1-33 be affiliated with a program approved by the State Board for
1-34 Educator Certification [~~board~~].

1-35 (c) A participant in an academy program must be:

1-36 (1) an experienced teacher who:

1-37 (A) is recommended by a school district; and

1-38 (B) has at least two [~~five~~] years experience
1-39 teaching mathematics, science, or technology in assignments for
1-40 which the teacher met all certification requirements; or

1-41 (2) a teacher preparation program candidate who has or
1-42 will graduate with a degree in mathematics, science, or technology.

1-43 (d) An academy program shall:

1-44 (1) offer a masters-level degree as part of the
1-45 program on a schedule that allows a teacher participant to complete
1-46 the program and degree while employed as a teacher;

1-47 (2) coordinate with the mathematics, science, and
1-48 technology departments of the institution of higher education
1-49 operating the program to facilitate the ability of:

1-50 (A) academy participants to take advanced
1-51 courses and qualify for degrees; and

1-52 (B) teacher preparation program candidates
1-53 pursuing mathematics, science, or technology degrees to
1-54 participate in academy programs;

1-55 (3) integrate advanced subject-matter coursework with
1-56 instructional methodology and curriculum delivery; and

1-57 (4) focus on strengthening instructional skills.

1-58 (e) An academy program may:

1-59 (1) provide financial assistance for the purpose of
1-60 allowing participants to complete the program and obtain a master
1-61 teacher certificate under Section 21.0482, 21.0483, or 21.0484;

1-62 (2) include programs in leadership skills to develop
1-63 training, mentoring, and coaching skills;

1-64 (3) deliver coursework electronically for some or all

2-1 of the program; and
2-2 (4) provide for ongoing professional development and
2-3 coordination with specific public school instructional programs.

2-4 SECTION 2. Section 39.363, Education Code, is amended to
2-5 read as follows:

2-6 Sec. 39.363. FUNDING FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS. (a) From funds
2-7 appropriated, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
2-8 allocate \$8.75 million each year to establish mathematics, science,
2-9 and technology teacher preparation academies under Section 61.0766
2-10 [~~21.462~~] and implement and administer the program under Section
2-11 29.098.

2-12 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
2-13 establish mathematics, science, and technology teacher preparation
2-14 academies under Section 61.0766 [~~21.462~~] and implement and
2-15 administer the program under Section 29.098 in a manner consistent
2-16 with the goals of this subchapter and the goals in "Closing the
2-17 Gaps," the state's master plan for higher education.

2-18 SECTION 3. Subsection (b), Section 39.365, Education Code,
2-19 is amended to read as follows:

2-20 (b) Not later than March 1 and September 1 of each year, the
2-21 commissioner of education shall prepare and deliver a progress
2-22 report to the presiding officers of the standing committees of each
2-23 house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over public
2-24 education, the Legislative Budget Board, and the Governor's Office
2-25 of Policy and Planning on:

2-26 (1) the implementation of Sections 7.031, 21.4511,
2-27 21.4541, [~~21.462~~] 28.008(d-1), 28.0212(d), 29.095-29.098, 29.911,
2-28 29.917-29.919, and 39.115 and this subchapter;

2-29 (2) the programs supported by grants approved under
2-30 this subchapter; and

2-31 (3) the alignment of grants and programs to the
2-32 strategic plan adopted under Section 39.357.

2-33 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-34 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-35 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-36 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-37 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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