

By: Bohac

H.B. No. 3816

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development for public school teachers.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.417 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.417. COMPUTER SCIENCE CERTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM.

(a) The commissioner shall establish a computer science certification grant program to encourage teachers to:

(1) become certified as computer science teachers; and

(2) continue professional development in computer science education.

(b) From funds appropriated for that purpose, the commissioner shall make grants to eligible providers that offer:

(1) training for computer science certification for teachers in accordance with certification requirements adopted by the State Board for Educator Certification; and

(2) professional development for currently certified computer science teachers to ensure certified teachers maintain working knowledge of current industry standard tools and resources.

(c) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a provider must:

(1) be:

1 (A) an institution of higher education;
2 (B) a regional education service center; or
3 (C) an independent school district or a
4 partnership of multiple independent school districts; and

5 (2) meet eligibility standards established by
6 commissioner rule.

7 (d) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this
8 section must:

9 (1) provide the training or professional development
10 described by Subsection (b) to teachers in at least three high-need
11 school districts, as determined by commissioner rule; and

12 (2) in each school year, successfully provide the
13 training necessary to enable at least 10 teachers to receive
14 computer science certification.

15 (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to
16 implement this section.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2015, the
18 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program
19 required under Section 21.417, Education Code, as added by this
20 Act.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
22 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
23 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
24 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
25 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.