

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 3908

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a pilot program to expand joint credit programs to  
3 include certain courses offered by career schools and colleges in  
4 certain counties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 132, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 132.026 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 132.026. JOINT CREDIT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) Subject to  
9 available funding, the commission, in coordination with the Texas  
10 Education Agency, shall develop and administer a pilot program  
11 under which the commission awards grants to career schools and  
12 colleges that partner with participating public high schools to  
13 offer joint high school and career school or college credit for  
14 courses in nursing and applied sciences and technology.

15 (b) A public high school is eligible to participate in the  
16 pilot program only if the school is located in an economically  
17 disadvantaged and underserved region of the state, as determined by  
18 the commission for purposes of this section.

19 (c) To partner with an eligible high school under the pilot  
20 program, a career school or college must be located in the same  
21 county as the high school.

22 (d) The commission shall award grants under the pilot  
23 program from funds appropriated for that purpose and any other  
24 available funds. The commission may seek and accept gifts, grants,

1 and donations to fund the pilot program.

2 (e) Not later than December 1, 2016, the commission shall  
3 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the  
4 house of representatives, and the standing legislative committees  
5 with primary jurisdiction over education a written report on the  
6 effectiveness of the pilot program and any recommendations for  
7 legislative or other action.

8 (f) The commission shall adopt rules as necessary to  
9 implement this section.

10 (g) This section expires September 1, 2017.

11 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules  
12 for the administration of Section 132.026, Education Code, as added  
13 by this Act, as soon as practicable after this Act takes effect. For  
14 that purpose, the commission may adopt the initial rules in the  
15 manner provided by law for emergency rules.

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