

By: Bohac, Howard, Cyrier

H.B. No. 588

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting  
3 computer science certification and professional development for  
4 public school teachers.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter I, Chapter 21, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 21.416 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 21.416. COMPUTER SCIENCE CERTIFICATION GRANT PROGRAM.

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

11 (1) become certified as computer science teachers; and

12 (2) continue professional development in computer  
13 science education.

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

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

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

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

24 (1) be:

1           (A) an institution of higher education;

2           (B) a regional education service center;

3           (C) an independent school district or a  
4 partnership of multiple independent school districts; or

5           (D) a nonprofit entity approved by the  
6 commissioner that has demonstrated experience in providing  
7 professional development in the area of educational technology; and

8           (2) meet eligibility standards established by  
9 commissioner rule.

10          (d) An eligible provider receiving a grant under this  
11 section must:

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

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

18          (e) The commissioner shall adopt rules necessary to  
19 implement this section.

20          SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2017, the  
21 commissioner of education shall establish the grant program  
22 required under Section 21.416, Education Code, as added by this  
23 Act.

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

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1 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.