

By: Fallon  
(Ashby)

S.B. No. 2042

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Education Agency of career and technology education programs.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.193 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.193. STUDY AND REPORT ON CREDENTIALS AND CERTIFICATES. (a) The agency shall conduct a study to:

(1) evaluate the industry-recognized credentials and certificates that are currently being offered to public high school students through career and technology education programs in each region of the state; and

(2) identify any unmet needs in career and technology education programs currently being offered to public high school students in each region of the state.

(b) The study must:

(1) for each region of the state:

(A) evaluate:

(i) the industry-recognized credentials or certificates currently being offered to public high school students through career and technology education programs in the region; and

(ii) the knowledge and skills necessary to meet workforce needs in the region; and

(B) identify:

1                   (i) any gaps between the  
2 industry-recognized credentials or certificates identified under  
3 Paragraph (A)(i) and the knowledge and skills identified under  
4 Paragraph (A)(ii); and

5                   (ii) any knowledge or skills that could be  
6 incorporated into career and technology education programs in the  
7 region to increase students' marketability in that region after  
8 graduation from high school; and

9                   (2) for each currently offered industry-recognized  
10 credential or certificate, assess the economic impact of earning  
11 the credential or certificate in each region of the state,  
12 including:

13                   (A) the average industry wage for a student who  
14 has earned the credential or certificate in each region; and

15                   (B) the demand to employ a student in each region  
16 for the credential or certificate.

17                   (c) Not later than September 1, 2021, the agency shall  
18 submit to the commissioner a report that:

19                   (1) identifies any currently offered  
20 industry-recognized credential or certificate that does not  
21 provide a sufficient positive economic impact in any region of the  
22 state based on the assessment conducted under Subsection (b)(2);

23                   (2) recommends the creation of industry-recognized  
24 credentials or certificates for each region of the state to be  
25 offered in a career and technology education program in that region  
26 that will address unmet workforce needs and enhance student  
27 competitiveness in the labor market; and

1           (3) provides recommendations for issuing guidance to  
2 public schools on how to use labor market information generated by  
3 state agencies in designing career and technology education  
4 programs and courses.

5           (d) This section expires September 1, 2022.

6           SECTION 2. The Texas Education Agency is required to  
7 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature  
8 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the  
9 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that  
10 purpose, the Texas Education Agency may, but is not required to,  
11 implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations  
12 available for that purpose.

13           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
14 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
15 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
16 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
17 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.