



E870427

21 Oct-15 AM 08:11  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FLOOR AMENDMENT NO. \_\_\_\_\_

BY: Parker

1 Amend C.S.S.B. 8 (house committee report) as follows:

2 (1) On page 3, line 9, strike "\$200,000,000" and substitute  
3 "\$191,028,000".

4 (2) Add the following appropriately numbered SECTION to the  
5 bill and renumber subsequent SECTIONS of the bill and  
6 cross-references to those SECTIONS accordingly:

7 SECTION \_\_\_\_\_. HIGHER EDUCATION COORDINATING BOARD:  
8 COMPETENCY-BASED EDUCATION GRANT PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The amount of  
9 \$8,972,000 is appropriated to the Higher Education Coordinating  
10 Board from money received by this state from the Coronavirus State  
11 Fiscal Recovery Fund (42 U.S.C. Section 802) established under the  
12 American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 (Pub. L. No. 117-2) and deposited  
13 to the credit of the Coronavirus Relief Fund No. 325 for the purpose  
14 of, to the extent authorized by other law, implementing a pilot  
15 program through which the coordinating board provides grants to  
16 students enrolled at a public or private postsecondary educational  
17 institution in this state in competency-based baccalaureate degree  
18 programs that lead to employment in high-demand occupations in  
19 professional, scientific, or technical services, health care,  
20 social assistance services, or education services during the  
21 two-year period beginning on the effective date of this Act.

22 (b) In implementing the pilot program described by  
23 Subsection (a) of this section, the Higher Education Coordinating  
24 Board shall:

25 (1) establish eligibility requirements for a grant  
26 described by that subsection, including a requirement that the  
27 student be:

28 (A) a resident of this state; and

29 (B) enrolled in a competency-based baccalaureate

1 degree program at:

2 (i) an institution of higher education or a  
3 private or independent institution of higher education, as defined  
4 by Section 61.003, Education Code; or

5 (ii) a nonprofit, tax-exempt, regionally  
6 accredited college or university operating in accordance with a  
7 memorandum of understanding with this state under an executive  
8 order issued by the governor and offering competency-based,  
9 exclusively online baccalaureate degree programs;

10 (2) identify degree programs that lead to employment  
11 in high-demand occupations as described by that subsection;

12 (3) prioritize awarding grants to students with the  
13 greatest unmet financial need;

14 (4) limit the amount of a grant to a student for any  
15 academic year to \$500; and

16 (5) in collaboration with the Texas Workforce  
17 Commission, establish methods of collecting and reporting data on  
18 enrollment, credential completion, and employment outcomes for  
19 students who receive a grant under the program.