By:  González of El Paso H.B. No. 2827

     (Senate Sponsor - Zaffirini)

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021; May 14, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education; May 19, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; May 19, 2021, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Creighton       X

West            X

Birdwell        X

Blanco          X

Miles           X

Paxton          X

Springer        X

Taylor          X

Zaffirini       X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the transfer to the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of certain responsibilities relating to postsecondary education and career counseling.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 33.009(a), (b), (c), (e), (h), and (i), Education Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  In this section, "coordinating board" [~~"center"~~] means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board [~~Center for Teaching and Learning at The University of Texas at Austin~~].

(b)  The coordinating board [~~center~~] shall develop and make available postsecondary education and career counseling academies for school counselors and other postsecondary advisors employed by a school district at a middle school, junior high school, or high school.

(c)  In developing academies under this section, the coordinating board [~~center~~] shall solicit input from the agency, school counselors, the Texas Workforce Commission, institutions of higher education, and business, community, and school leaders.

(e)  The coordinating board [~~center~~] shall develop an online instructional program that school districts may use in providing the instruction in high school, college, and career preparation required by Section 28.016. The program must be structured for use as part of an existing course.

(h)  From funds appropriated for that purpose, a school counselor who attends the academy under this section is entitled to receive a stipend in the amount determined by the coordinating board [~~center~~]. If funds are available after all eligible school counselors have received a stipend under this subsection, the coordinating board [~~center~~] shall pay a stipend in the amount determined by the coordinating board [~~center~~] to a teacher who attends the academy under this section. A stipend received under this subsection is not considered in determining whether a district is paying the school counselor or teacher the minimum monthly salary under Section 21.402.

(i)  From available funds appropriated for purposes of this section, the coordinating board [~~center~~] may provide to school counselors and other educators curricula, instructional materials, and technological tools relating to postsecondary education and career counseling.

SECTION 2.  Sections 33.009(f) and (j), Education Code, are repealed.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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