S.B. No. 226

AN ACT

relating to instruction in educator training programs regarding digital learning, virtual learning, and virtual instruction.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 21.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivisions (4) and (5) to read as follows:

(4)  "Virtual instruction" means instructional activities delivered to students primarily over the Internet.

(5)  "Virtual learning" means digital learning facilitated by virtual instruction.

SECTION 2.  Section 21.044(c-2), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c-2)  Any minimum academic qualifications for a certificate specified under Subsection (a) that require a person to possess a bachelor's degree must also require that the person receive, as part of the training required to obtain that certificate, instruction in digital learning, virtual learning, and virtual instruction, including a digital literacy evaluation followed by a prescribed digital learning curriculum. The instruction required must:

(1)  be aligned with the International Society for Technology in Education's standards for teachers;

(2)  provide effective, evidence-based strategies to determine a person's degree of digital literacy; [~~and~~]

(3)  cover best practices in:

(A)  assessing students receiving virtual instruction, based on academic progress; and

(B)  developing a virtual learning curriculum; and

(4)  include resources to address any deficiencies identified by the digital literacy evaluation.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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I hereby certify that S.B. No. 226 passed the Senate on April 19, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 226 passed the House on May 26, 2021, by the following vote:  Yeas 130, Nays 17, two present not voting.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_    Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_             Date\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_           Governor