By:  Jetton H.B. No. 2074

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of a local optional teacher designation system grant program by the Texas Education Agency.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter H, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.3522 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.3522.  LOCAL OPTIONAL TEACHER DESIGNATION SYSTEM GRANT PROGRAM. (a) From funds appropriated or otherwise available for the purpose, the agency shall establish and administer a program to provide grants to eligible school districts or open-enrollment charter schools to implement a local optional teacher designation system under Section 21.3521.

(b)  The commissioner by rule shall establish eligibility criteria to receive a grant under this section.

(c)  The agency may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source for the purpose of this section.

(d)  The commissioner shall adopt rules to establish and administer the grant program under this section.

SECTION 2.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Education Agency shall establish the local optional teacher designation system grant program under Section 21.3522, Education Code, as added by this Act.

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, 2023.