By:  Bhojani H.B. No. 4076

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the salary step credit for a certified career and technology education teacher.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 21.403, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  A teacher, librarian, school counselor, or nurse shall advance one step on the minimum salary schedule under Section 21.402 for each year of experience as a teacher, librarian, school counselor, or nurse until step 20 is reached.

(b)  For each year of work experience required for certification in a career or technological field, up to a maximum of ~~two~~ five years, a certified career or technology education teacher is entitled to salary step credit as if the work experience were teaching experience.

(c)  The commissioner shall adopt rules for determining the experience for which a teacher, librarian, school counselor, or nurse is to be given credit in placing the teacher, librarian, school counselor, or nurse on the minimum salary schedule. A district shall credit the teacher, librarian, school counselor, or nurse for each year of experience without regard to whether the years are consecutive.

(d)  As long as a teacher or librarian who received a career ladder supplement is employed by the same school district, the teacher or librarian is entitled to:

(1)  placement on the minimum salary schedule at the step above the step on which the teacher would otherwise be placed, if the teacher or librarian received a career ladder supplement for level two of the career ladder on August 31, 1993; or

(2)  placement on the minimum salary schedule at the step two steps above the step on which the teacher would otherwise be placed, if the teacher or librarian received a career ladder supplement for level three of the career ladder on August 31, 1993.

SECTION 2.  Section 823.404, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  An eligible member may establish equivalent membership service credit for up to a maximum of five ~~one or two~~ years of work experience for which the member is entitled to salary step credit under Section 21.403(b), Education Code.

(b)  A member is eligible to establish equivalent membership service credit under this section if the member has at least five years of membership service credit.

(c)  A member may establish credit under this section by depositing with the retirement system, for each year of service, the actuarial present value, at the time of deposit, of the additional standard retirement annuity benefits that would be attributable to the conversion of the work experience into service credit based on rates and tables recommended by the actuary and adopted by the board of trustees.

(d)  After a member makes the deposits required by this section, the retirement system shall grant the member one year of equivalent membership service credit for each year of service approved.

SECTION 3.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

SECTION 4.  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.