By:  Allison H.B. No. 4358

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to including digital teaching in the micro-credential certification program for public school educator continuing education.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 21.054, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsections (a) and (i) and adding Subsection (i-1) to read as follows:

(a)  The board shall propose rules establishing a process for identifying continuing education courses and programs that fulfill educators' continuing education requirements, including opportunities for educators to receive micro-credentials, as provided by Subsection (i), in:

(1)  fields of study related to the educator's certification class; or

(2)  digital teaching [~~as provided by Subsection (i)~~].

(i)  The board shall propose rules establishing a program to issue micro-credentials in fields of study related to an educator's certification class or in digital teaching. The agency shall approve continuing education providers to offer micro-credential courses. A micro-credential received by an educator shall be recorded on the agency's Educator Certification Online System (ECOS) and included as part of the educator's public certification records.

(i-1)  In proposing rules under Subsection (i) for micro-credentials related to digital teaching, the board shall engage relevant stakeholders.

SECTION 2.  This Act applies beginning with the 2023-2024 school year.

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.