By:  Kuempel H.B. No. 4434

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of certain programs to facilitate early high school graduation and enrollment at public institutions of higher education and to the repeal of the Early High School Graduation Scholarship program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 28.0253, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 28.0253.  TEXAS FIRST EARLY HIGH SCHOOL COMPLETION [PILOT] PROGRAM[: HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMAS FOR STUDENTS WHO DEMONSTRATE EARLY READINESS FOR COLLEGE].

(a)  In this section:

(1)  "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(2)  "Eligible institution" means an institution of higher education as defined in Education Code § 61.003(8) ~~that is designated as a research university or emerging research university under the coordinating board's accountability system~~.

[(b)-(d) no changes]

(e)  A school district or open-enrollment charter school ~~may issue~~ shall permit a student to graduate with a Texas First high school diploma ~~to a student under the program~~ if, using the standards established under Subsection (c), the student demonstrates mastery of and early readiness for college in each of the subject areas described by that subsection and in a language other than English, notwithstanding any other local or state requirements.