By:  Springer S.B. No. 487

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

Relating to authorizing of any Community College District to offer a baccalaureate degree program in the field of education.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter L, Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by amending Section 130.303 to read as follows:

Section 130.303 AUTHORIZATION FOR CERTAIN BACCALAUREATE DEGREE PROGRAMS. (a) The coordinating board shall authorize baccalaureate degree programs in the fields of applied science, applied technology, and nursing at each public junior college that previously participated in a pilot project to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

(b)  The coordinating board may authorize baccalaureate degree programs at one or more public junior colleges that offer a degree program in the field of applied science, including a degree program in the field of applied science with an emphasis in early childhood education, applied technology, or nursing and have demonstrated a workforce need.

(c)  The coordinating board may authorize a baccalaureate degree program in the field of general education for the purposes of graduating licensed teachers at any public junior college.

(d)  The limitations prescribed by Section 130.306 and Section 130.307 do not apply to a baccalaureate degree program in the field of general education for the purposes of graduating licensed teachers under this section.

(e)  Not later than January 1, 2025, the coordinating board shall prepare a progress report on the baccalaureate degree program in the field of general education teacher established under this section. Not later than January 1, 2027, the coordinating board shall prepare a report on the effectiveness of the degree program, including any recommendations for legislative action regarding the offering of baccalaureate degree programs in the field of education by a public junior college. The coordinating board shall deliver a copy of each report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, the chair of the standing committee of each house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over higher education, and the primary author and primary sponsor of the bill. This subsection expires January 1, 2028.

SECTION 2.  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.