

By: Guillen

H.B. No. 2448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to creating a framework for including certain credentials of value offered by general academic teaching institutions as part of a baccalaureate degree program.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 61.003. DEFINITIONS.

(17) "Credential of value" means an industry recognized work-based learning credential in a high growth, high demand industry.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.05124 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.05124. ENCOURAGEMENT FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN GENERAL ACADEMIC UNIVERSITIES, PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES, RECOGNIZED ACCREDITING AGENCIES, AND PUBLIC TECHNICAL INSTITUTIONS THAT OFFER CREDENTIALS OF VALUE. a) The board shall encourage:

1) Credentials of value as part of a general academic university degree plan.

2) Memorandums of understanding between general academic universities and, public technical institutions that offer credentials of value.

3) Transferability of credits, particularly of course yielding credentials of value.

1           4) Development of multi-institutional degree plans.

2           5) Creation of a frictionless financial aid process  
3 that would allow for grants, scholarships, and all other forms of  
4 financial aid to be applicable to the earning of credentials of  
5 value.

6           b) the board shall award the designation of a Successful  
7 Outcomes distinction for general academic universities that have at  
8 least 8% of the graduating class of each academic year graduate with  
9 at least one credential of value.

10           SECTION 3. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
11 amended by adding Section 61.05125 to read as follows:

12           Sec. 61.05125. CREATION AND OBLIGATIONS OF A  
13 MULTI-INSTITUTIONAL TASKFORCE. a) The Board shall create a  
14 taskforce consisting of at least one representative from A K-12  
15 school district, a recognized accrediting entity, one  
16 representative from a general academic university, one  
17 representative from the Texas Workforce Commission, one  
18 representative from a public community college, and one  
19 representative from a public technical college.

20           b) The taskforce shall work together to develop a framework  
21 for:

22           1) Integrated multi institutional degree plans which  
23 are fully accredited.

24           2) The initiation of said degree plans at the k-12  
25 level.

26           3) Each student earning at least 2 credentials of  
27 value in their four year degree plan.

1           4) Graduation with at least 2 credentials of value and  
2 a four year degree in four years or less after high school  
3 graduation.

4           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.