

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.B. No. 4064

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an earth, environment, and planetary sciences pilot program in the Houston Independent School District.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter 2, Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 29.935 to read as follows:

Sec. 29.935. EARTH, ENVIRONMENT, AND PLANETARY SCIENCES PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section, "pilot program" means the earth, environment, and planetary sciences program offered by the Houston Independent School District.

(b) The Houston Independent School District shall, in collaboration with Rice University, establish and implement a pilot program that uses local institutions and resources, including the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center, the Houston Museum of Natural Science, and the Lunar and Planetary Institute to encourage student engagement in earth, environment, and planetary sciences and foster connections for students interested in careers in those and related fields of study.

(c) The program may include:

(1) a student outreach program to train graduate and undergraduate students in earth, environment, and planetary sciences and related fields of study on effective communication and teaching strategies in preparation for leading Houston Independent School District students in age-appropriate lessons and activities

1 involving current scientific research;

2 (2) professional development for Houston Independent  
3 School District teachers that provides strategies and resources for  
4 teaching earth, environment, and planetary sciences content;

5 (3) career information sessions for Houston  
6 Independent School District students that are hosted by Rice  
7 University graduate students, faculty, and alumni working in the  
8 earth, environment, and planetary sciences and related fields of  
9 study;

10 (4) community events, field trips, and summer  
11 programming for Houston Independent School District students and  
12 their families to explore developments in earth, environment, and  
13 planetary sciences and related fields of study through hands-on  
14 learning activities; and

15 (5) summer research internship opportunities for  
16 rising juniors and seniors enrolled in Houston Independent School  
17 District.

18 (d) Not later than September 1, 2025, the board of trustees  
19 of the Houston Independent School District shall prepare and  
20 deliver to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of  
21 the house of representatives, and the presiding officer of each  
22 legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over  
23 primary and secondary education a report that evaluates the  
24 effectiveness of the pilot program. The report must include the  
25 district's recommendations regarding whether the pilot program  
26 should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

27 (e) This section expires September 1, 2025.

1           SECTION 2. The Houston Independent School District shall  
2 establish the pilot program under Section 29.935, Education Code,  
3 as added by this Act, as soon as practicable following the effective  
4 date of this Act.

5           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
9 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.