

By: Eckhardt

S.B. No. 635

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the development of a state information technology
3 credential offered by public junior colleges to address shortages
4 in the state information resources workforce.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 2054.061(b), Government Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (b) The department shall annually analyze:

9 (1) the department's staffing needs;

10 (2) the need for and cost-effectiveness of contracting
11 for consultants and outside staff;

12 (3) whether the department could use department staff
13 to accomplish tasks proposed for the consultants and outside staff;

14 [~~and~~]

15 (4) whether and what type of training or additional
16 resources are necessary for the department to use the department's
17 own staff to accomplish tasks proposed for the consultants or
18 outside staff; and

19 (5) whether entering into an agreement with a public
20 junior college district under Section 2054.0701 is appropriate to
21 assist the department in meeting staffing needs.

22 SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is
23 amended by adding Section 2054.0701 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 2054.0701. STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CREDENTIAL.

1 (a) The department may enter into an agreement with a public junior
2 college district under Section 130.0081, Education Code, to offer a
3 program leading to a state information technology credential to
4 address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

5 (b) A program offered under this section must:

6 (1) be approved by the Texas Higher Education
7 Coordinating Board in accordance with Section 61.0512, Education
8 Code;

9 (2) develop the knowledge and skills necessary for an
10 entry-level information technology position in a state agency; and

11 (3) include a one-year apprenticeship with:

12 (A) the department;

13 (B) another relevant state agency;

14 (C) an organization working on a major
15 information resources project; or

16 (D) a regional network security center
17 established under Section 2059.202.

18 (c) The executive director shall update the department's
19 intra-agency career ladder program to ensure that an associate
20 degree together with a credential awarded under this section may be
21 substituted for a four-year baccalaureate degree.

22 (d) The classification officer in the office of the state
23 auditor shall review the state's position classification plan to
24 determine whether an associate degree together with a credential
25 awarded under this section may be substituted for a four-year
26 baccalaureate degree and revise relevant job descriptions
27 accordingly.

1 (e) If a program offered under this section is not fully
2 funded through tuition and other money of the public junior college
3 district available for the purpose, the department may:

4 (1) use any money available to the department for the
5 purpose to offer a program under this section; and

6 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations
7 from any public or private source for purposes of offering a program
8 under this section.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.