

By: LaMantia

S.B. No. 708

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to certain credentials of value offered by general  
3 academic teaching institutions as part of a baccalaureate degree  
4 program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 61.05123 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 61.05123. COURSE CREDIT TOWARD BACCALAUREATE DEGREE  
9 PROGRAM FOR COMPLETION OF CERTAIN WORK-BASED CREDENTIALS OF VALUE.

10 (a) Subject to board approval, a general academic teaching  
11 institution may enter into an agreement with a public or private  
12 entity to offer as part of a baccalaureate degree program at the  
13 institution a work-based learning credential of value in a high  
14 demand, high growth industry leading to quality career  
15 opportunities that a student may elect to complete in satisfaction  
16 of certain required coursework under this degree program.

17 (b) Section 61.0512(g) does not apply to a credential of  
18 value offered by a general academic teaching institution under this  
19 section.

20 (c) The board in consultation with the Texas Workforce  
21 Commission shall adopt rules for the administration of this  
22 section, including rules for determining:

23 (1) whether a work-based credential of value qualifies  
24 to be offered as a part of a baccalaureate degree program under this

1 section; and

2 (2) the required coursework for which a credential of  
3 value offered under this section may be substituted.

4 SECTION 2. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board  
5 shall adopt rules as required by Section 61.05123(c), Education  
6 Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable following the  
7 effective date of this Act.

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