

1-1 By: Parker S.B. No. 2139
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 9, 2023; March 21, 2023, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 17, 2023, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute from Committee on Education by the following vote:
 1-6 Yeas 10, Nays 0; April 17, 2023, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14			X	
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			
1-18	X			
1-19	X			
1-20			X	
1-21	X			

1-22 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2139 By: Springer

1-23 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-24 AN ACT

1-25 relating to the establishment of the Opportunity High School
 1-26 Diploma pilot program.

1-27 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-28 SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by
 1-29 adding Subchapter O to read as follows:

1-30 SUBCHAPTER O. OPPORTUNITY HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA PILOT PROGRAM

1-31 Sec. 130.451. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-32 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
 1-33 Education Coordinating Board.

1-34 (2) "General academic teaching institution" has the
 1-35 meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

1-36 (3) "Pilot program" means the Opportunity High School
 1-37 Diploma pilot program established under this subchapter.

1-38 Sec. 130.452. PURPOSE. The purpose of the pilot program is
 1-39 to provide an alternative means by which adult students enrolled in
 1-40 a workforce education program at a public junior college may earn a
 1-41 high school diploma at the college through concurrent enrollment in
 1-42 a competency-based education program that enables students to
 1-43 demonstrate knowledge substantially equivalent to the knowledge
 1-44 required to earn a high school diploma in this state.

1-45 Sec. 130.453. ADMINISTRATION. The coordinating board shall
 1-46 administer the pilot program in consultation with the Texas
 1-47 Education Agency and the Texas Workforce Commission.

1-48 Sec. 130.454. APPROVAL OF ALTERNATIVE HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA
 1-49 PROGRAM. (a) A public junior college may submit to the
 1-50 coordinating board an application to participate in the pilot
 1-51 program. The application must propose an alternative
 1-52 competency-based high school diploma program to be offered for
 1-53 concurrent enrollment to adult students without a high school
 1-54 diploma who are enrolled in a workforce education program at the
 1-55 college. The proposed program may include any combination of
 1-56 instruction, curriculum, achievement, internships, or other means
 1-57 by which a student may attain knowledge sufficient to adequately
 1-58 prepare the student for postsecondary education or additional
 1-59 workforce education.

1-60 (b) The coordinating board may approve not more than five

2-1 public junior colleges to participate in the pilot program.

2-2 (c) Subject to Subsection (b), the coordinating board shall
2-3 review and approve a public junior college's application to
2-4 participate in the pilot program if the board determines that the
2-5 college's proposed program described by Subsection (a) will provide
2-6 instruction and assessments appropriate to ensure that a student
2-7 who successfully completes the program demonstrates levels of
2-8 knowledge sufficient to adequately prepare the student for
2-9 postsecondary education or additional workforce education. The
2-10 coordinating board may coordinate with the Texas Education Agency
2-11 as necessary to make a determination under this subsection.

2-12 (d) A public junior college approved to participate in the
2-13 pilot program may:

2-14 (1) enter into an agreement with one or more public
2-15 junior colleges, general academic teaching institutions, school
2-16 districts, or nonprofit organizations to offer the program
2-17 described by Subsection (a); and

2-18 (2) offer the program described by Subsection (a) at
2-19 any campus of the college or an entity with which the college has
2-20 entered into an agreement under Subdivision (1).

2-21 Sec. 130.455. AWARD OF HIGH SCHOOL DIPLOMA. (a) A public
2-22 junior college participating in the pilot program may award a high
2-23 school diploma to a student enrolled in the alternative
2-24 competency-based high school diploma program offered by the college
2-25 under the pilot program if the student performs satisfactorily on
2-26 assessment instruments prescribed by coordinating board rule.

2-27 (b) A high school diploma awarded under the pilot program is
2-28 equivalent to a high school diploma awarded under Section 28.025.

2-29 Sec. 130.456. FUNDING. (a) The coordinating board and the
2-30 Texas Workforce Commission shall coordinate to jointly identify
2-31 funding mechanisms, including grants, interagency contracts,
2-32 financial aid, or subsidies, available to public junior colleges
2-33 and students to encourage and facilitate participation in the pilot
2-34 program.

2-35 (b) A public junior college participating in the pilot
2-36 program is entitled to receive funding under Section 130.003 for
2-37 the pilot program in the manner provided by coordinating board
2-38 rule.

2-39 Sec. 130.457. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2026, the
2-40 coordinating board shall submit to the legislature a report on the
2-41 effectiveness of the pilot program. The report must include a
2-42 recommendation regarding whether the pilot program should be
2-43 continued, expanded, or terminated.

2-44 Sec. 130.458. RULES. The coordinating board may adopt
2-45 rules as necessary to implement this subchapter.

2-46 Sec. 130.459. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires
2-47 September 1, 2027.

2-48 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
2-49 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
2-50 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
2-51 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
2-52 Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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