1 AN ACT

2 relating to the development of a state information technology

3 apprenticeship credential offered by public junior colleges or

4 public technical institutes to address shortages in the state

5 information resources workforce.

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

7 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is

8 amended by adding Section 2054.0702 to read as follows:

9 Sec. 2054.0702. STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

10 APPRENTICESHIP CREDENTIAL. (a) In this section, "public junior

11 college" and "public technical institute" have the meanings

12 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

13 (b) A state agency may enter into an agreement with a public

14 junior college district under Section 130.0081, Education Code, or

15 a public technical institute under Section 135.06, Education Code,

16 or other applicable law to offer a program leading to a state

17 information technology apprenticeship credential to address

18 shortages in the state information resources workforce.

19 (c) A program offered under this section must:

20 (1) be approved by the Texas Higher Education

21 Coordinating Board in accordance with Section 61.0512, Education

22 Code;

23 (2) develop the knowledge and skills necessary for a

24 journey- or senior-level information technology position in a state

1 agency; and

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

3   (A)   a relevant state agency;

4   (B)   an   organization   working   on   a   major

5 information resources project; or

6   (C)   a   regional   network   security   center

7 established under Section 2059.202.

8   (d)   An apprenticeship described by Subsection (c)(3) may

9 be:

10   (1)   an   apprenticeship   program   registered   with   the

11 United States Department of Labor; or

12   (2)   an   industry-recognized   apprenticeship   program

13 offered by a public junior college or public technical institute

14 that:

15   (A)   adheres to academic and workforce standards

16 required by industry; and

17   (B)   provides for flexibility in course design and

18 implementation, including flexibility regarding the:

19   (i)   number   of   hours   of   classroom

20 instruction and on-the-job training required;

21   (ii)   competencies   required   for

22 credentialing; and

23   (iii)   goals for the program, as determined

24 by the employer partner and faculty of the institution.

25   (e)   The executive director shall update the department's

26 intra-agency career ladder program to ensure that an associate

27 degree together with a credential awarded under this section may be

1 substituted for a four-year baccalaureate degree.

2 (f) The classification officer in the office of the state

3 auditor shall review the state's position classification plan to

4 determine whether an associate degree together with a credential

5 awarded under this section may be substituted for a four-year

6 baccalaureate degree and revise relevant job descriptions

7 accordingly.

8 (g) If a program offered under this section is not fully

9 funded through tuition and other money available to the public

10 junior college district or public technical institute for that

11 purpose, a state agency may:

12 (1) use any money available to the agency for the

13 purpose of offering the program; and

14 (2) solicit and accept gifts, grants, and donations

15 from any public or private source for the purpose of offering the

16 program.

17 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

_____   _____
President of the Senate   Speaker of the House

    I certify that H.B. No. 2768 was passed by the House on May 2, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 122, Nays 1, 2 present, not voting.

                                             _____
                                           Chief Clerk of the House

    I certify that H.B. No. 2768 was passed by the Senate on May 19, 2025, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

                                           _____
                                         Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____
                    Date

            _____
                 Governor