

By: Capriglione

H.B. No. 2768

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2768:

By: Bhojani

C.S.H.B. No. 2768

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development of a state information technology apprenticeship credential offered by public junior colleges or public technical institutes to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 2054, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 2054.0702 to read as follows:

Sec. 2054.0702. STATE INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY APPRENTICESHIP CREDENTIAL. (a) In this section, "public junior college" and "public technical institute" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

(b) A state agency may enter into an agreement with a public junior college district under Section 130.0081, Education Code, or a public technical institute under Section 135.06, Education Code, or other applicable law to offer a program leading to a state information technology apprenticeship credential to address shortages in the state information resources workforce.

(c) A program offered under this section must:

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

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