

By: Parker

S.B. No. 2059

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the recognition of career and technology education programs by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 51, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subchapter K to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER K. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAMS

Sec. 51.551. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Career and technology education program" means:

(A) a career and technology education program under Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code; or

(B) a program determined by the department to be similar to that described by Paragraph (A) and offered by:

(i) an institution of higher education; or

(ii) a private school, as defined by Section 5.001, Education Code.

(2) "Institution of higher education" means an institution of higher education or a private or independent institution of higher education, as those terms are defined by Section 61.003, Education Code.

Sec. 51.552. CAREER AND TECHNOLOGY EDUCATION PROGRAM RECOGNITION. The commission shall adopt rules providing for the recognition of career and technology education programs for programs regulated by the department. The rules must:

1           (1) specify how completion of a career and technology  
2 education program will be credited toward licensing for the  
3 applicable program;

4           (2) establish who is eligible to provide instruction  
5 in a career and technology education program for purposes of this  
6 section; and

7           (3) establish standards for the essential knowledge  
8 and skills of a career and technology education program, subject to  
9 the approval of the State Board of Education if the courses are to  
10 be offered in a high school, that include:

11           (A) requiring the program to consist of an  
12 appropriate number of hours of classroom instruction and a  
13 practical component;

14           (B) providing for crediting appropriate  
15 on-the-job training toward meeting the requirements of the  
16 practical component; and

17           (C) prohibiting a career and technology  
18 education program offered by an institution of higher education  
19 from being more stringent than a program offered by a public high  
20 school.

21       SECTION 2. In developing the initial standards for a career  
22 and technology education program under Section 51.552, Occupations  
23 Code, as added by this Act, the Texas Commission of Licensing and  
24 Regulation shall consult with the Texas State Technical College and  
25 relevant interest groups.

26       SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
27 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

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1 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
2 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
3 Act takes effect September 1, 2025.