

SUBJECT: Creating a micro-credential certification program for public educators

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allen, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M. González, K. King, Meyer, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Sanford

WITNESSES: For — Adam Jones, iteachTEXAS; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Jane McFarland, League of Women Voters of Texas; Bob Popinski, Raise Your Hand Texas; Seth Rau, San Antonio ISD; Richard Webster, Spring Branch ISD Board of Trustees; Dwight Harris, Texas American Federation of Teachers; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Casey McCreary, Texas Association of School Administrators; Grover Campbell, Texas Association of School Boards; Paige Williams, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Caroline Joiner, Texas Computer Education Association; Dee Carney, Texas School Alliance; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association)

Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Bill Kelberlau)

On — Priscilla Aquino Garza, Educate Texas; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Melody Parrish, Ryan Franklin, and Eric Marin, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: HB 2424 would require the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) to propose rules establishing a program to issue micro-credentials in fields of study related to an educator's certification class. In addition, SBEC would propose rules to establish a process for identifying continuing education courses and programs that included opportunities for educators to receive micro-credentials in such fields.

Texas Education Agency (TEA) would be required to approve continuing education providers to offer micro-credential courses. When an educator received a credential, TEA would be required to record it on the Educator Certification Online System and to include it as a part of the educator's public certification records.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2019.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of about \$700,000 through the biennium ending in August 31, 2021.

Amendment No. 87 by Ashby to the House-passed version of the general appropriations act for fiscal 2020-21 amended Rider 41 of Article III, under the Texas Education Agency, to include micro-credential certification programs in the list of initiatives that would be funded to improve educator quality and effectiveness.