

SUBJECT: Providing micro-credentials for educators in digital teaching

COMMITTEE: Public Education — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 10 ayes — Buckley, Allison, Cunningham, Cody Harris, Harrison, Hefner, Hinojosa, K. King, Schaefer, Talarico

0 nays

3 absent — Allen, Dutton, Longoria

WITNESSES: For — Gabriel Grantham, Texas 2036 (*Registered, but did not testify*: Julia Grizzard, Bexar County Education Coalition; Adam Jones, Iteach Texas; Barry Haenisch, Texas Association of Community Schools; Amy Beneski, Texas Association of School Administrators; Raif Calvert, Texas Association of School Boards; Matthew Russell, Texas Computer Education Association; Jennifer Easley, Texas PTA)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Eric Marin, TEA)

BACKGROUND: Some have suggested that educators need support to build their skills in virtual teaching and a way to display their qualification for student success in that field.

DIGEST: HB 4358 would require the State Board for Educator Certification to provide continuing education opportunities for and issue micro-credentials to educators in digital teaching.

Boards of trustees would be required to engage relevant stakeholders in proposing rules to implement these changes.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2023-24 school year.

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, 2023.

NOTES:

According to the Legislative Budget Board, HB 4358 would have a negative impact of about \$999,344 on general revenue related funds during fiscal 2024-25.