SECTION 3. (a) Except as provided by Subsection (b), this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

(b) Section 1 of this Act takes effect January 1, 2010.

Passed by the House on April 22, 2009: Yeas 127, Nays 19, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 2009: Yeas 29, Nays 1.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009 except as provided by § 3(b).

CHAPTER 627

H.B. No. 1321

AN ACT

relating to the discharge of a jury under certain circumstances in a criminal case.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Article 36.29(c), Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended to read as follows:

(c) After the charge of the court is read to the jury, if a juror [any one of them] becomes so sick as to prevent the continuance of the juror's [his] duty and an alternate juror is not available, or if any accident of circumstance occurs to prevent the jury from [their] being kept together under circumstances under which the law or the instructions of the court requires that the jury [they] be kept together, the jury shall be discharged, except that on agreement on the record by the defendant, the defendant's counsel, and the attorney representing the state 11 members of a jury may render a verdict and, if punishment is to be assessed by the jury, assess punishment. If a verdict is rendered by less than the whole number of the jury, each member of the jury shall sign the verdict.

SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies only to a trial that commences on or after the effective date of this Act. A trial that commenced before the effective date of this Act is covered by the law in effect on the date the trial commenced, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 30, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate on May 27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

Effective September 1, 2009.

CHAPTER 628

H.B. No. 1322

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an online resource for teachers of students with special health needs.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Subchapter J, Chapter 21, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 21.463 to read as follows:

Sec. 21.463. RESOURCES FOR TEACHERS OF STUDENTS WITH SPECIAL HEALTH NEEDS. The agency, in coordination with the Health and Human Services Commission, shall establish and maintain an Internet website to provide resources for teachers who teach students with special health needs. The agency shall include on the website information about:
(1) the treatment and management of chronic illnesses and how such illnesses impact a student's well-being or ability to succeed in school; and

(2) food allergies that are common among students, including information about preventing exposure to a specific food when necessary to protect a student's health and information about treating a student suffering from an allergic reaction to a food.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

Passed by the House on April 24, 2009: Yeas 137, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1322 on May 29, 2009, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1322 on May 31, 2009: Yeas 146, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 27, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 1322 on June 1, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.

CHAPTER 629

H.B. No. 1325

AN ACT

relating to the degrees awarded by the Texas State Technical College System.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. Section 135.011, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 135.011. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Board" means the board of regents of the Texas State Technical College System.

(2) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) "System" means the Texas State Technical College System.

(4) "Faculty research" means research using the system's facilities and equipment that is:

(A) consistent with the system's mission; and

(B) funded by private sources, competitively acquired sources, or appropriated public funding.

(5) "Campus" means a residential unit of the system that grants associate degrees and certificates.

(6) "Extension center" means a site, operating under the administration of a campus, that has an extension program.

(7) "Extension program" includes credit and noncredit instruction in technical-vocational education.

SECTION 2. Section 135.51, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 135.51. CERTIFICATES, DIPLOMAS, AND ASSOCIATE DEGREES. (a) The board shall prescribe and award associate of applied science degrees, certificates, and diplomas limited to those appropriate to technical education.

(b) The board may offer and award an associate of science degree in a field of study at Texas State Technical College—Harlingen campus if the coordinating board determines that the degree in that field of study: