(b) Not later than January 31, 2011, the board shall report the results of the study required by Subsection (a) to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer for each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education. The report must include:

1. the board’s recommendations concerning cost-saving measures that are achievable at institutions of higher education; and
2. an estimate of the amount of money that would be saved during a five-year period through the implementation of each recommendation.

(c) This section expires January 31, 2011.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 61.0665 to read as follows:

Sec. 61.0665. STUDY ON USE AND AVAILABILITY OF ELECTRONIC TEXTBOOKS. (a) The board shall conduct a study and recommend policies regarding the use and availability of electronic textbooks in higher education in this state and in other states. The study and policy recommendations must include a specific focus on the results of the pilot program implemented by The University of Texas at Austin with respect to the use of electronic textbooks and must address methods for encouraging the use of electronic textbooks at public or private institutions of higher education in this state.

(b) Each student regent serving under Section 51.355 or 51.356 shall assist the board in performing the board’s duties under Subsection (a). The board shall establish procedures to assist a student regent in complying with this subsection.

(c) The board may solicit and accept gifts and grants from any public or private source to conduct the study and develop policy recommendations under this section.

(d) Not later than December 1, 2010, the board shall make an initial report and recommendations based on the study to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and presiding officer of each legislative standing committee with primary jurisdiction over higher education. This subsection expires January 31, 2011.

SECTION 3. 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 30, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4149 on May 23, 2009: Yeas 138, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 21, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 1013

H.B. No. 4152

AN ACT
relating to certification of an educator in Texas who is certified in another state or country.

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

SECTION 1. Section 21.052, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (e), (f), (g), and (h) to read as follows:

(a) The board may issue a certificate to an educator who applies for a certificate and:

1. holds:

(A) a degree issued by an institution accredited by a regional accrediting agency or group that is recognized by a nationally recognized accreditation board; or
(B) a degree issued by an institution located in a foreign country, if the degree is equivalent to a degree described by Paragraph (A);

(2) holds an appropriate certificate or other credential issued by another state or country; and

(3) performs satisfactorily on:

(A) the examination prescribed under Section 21.048; or

(B) if the educator holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state or country, an examination similar to and at least as rigorous as that described by Paragraph (A) administered to the educator under the authority of that state.

(e) An educator who has submitted all documents required by the board for certification and who receives a certificate as provided by Subsection (a) must perform satisfactorily on the examination prescribed under Section 21.048 not later than the first anniversary of the date the board completes the review of the educator’s credentials and informs the educator of the examination or examinations under Section 21.048 on which the educator must perform successfully to receive a standard certificate.

(f) The board shall post on the board’s Internet website the procedures for obtaining a certificate under Subsection (a).

(g) The commissioner shall provide guidance to school districts that employ an educator certified as provided by Subsection (a) on procedures to classify the educator as a highly qualified teacher in a manner consistent with the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 (20 U.S.C. Section 6301 et seq.).

(h) This subsection applies only to an applicant who holds a certificate or other credential issued by another state in mathematics, science, special education, or bilingual education, or another subject area that the commissioner determines has a shortage of teachers. In any state fiscal year, the board shall accept or reject, not later than the 14th day after the date the board receives the completed application, at least 90 percent of the applications the board receives for a certificate under this subsection, and shall accept or reject all completed applications the board receives under this subsection not later than the 30th day after the date the board receives the completed application. An applicant under this subsection must submit:

(1) a letter of good standing from the state in which the teacher is certified on a form determined by the board;

(2) information necessary to complete a national criminal history record information review; and

(3) an application fee as required by the board.

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 30, 2009: Yeas 131, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 4152 on May 29, 2009: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 26, 2009: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Approved June 19, 2009.


CHAPTER 1014

H.B. No. 4154

AN ACT

relating to the creation by the Health and Human Services Commission of a volunteer advocate program for certain elderly individuals.

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