A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of a pilot program in certain school

3 districts to develop computer science education and professional

4 development opportunities.

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

6   SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 28, Education Code, is

7 amended by adding Section 28.018 to read as follows:

8   Sec. 28.018. COMPUTER SCIENCE DEVELOPMENT PILOT PROGRAM.

9 (a) The commissioner by rule shall develop and implement a pilot

10 program under which:

11   (1) students in participating school districts may

12 comply with the curriculum requirements for the third mathematics

13 credit under Section 28.025(b-1)(2) or the third science credit

14 under Section 28.025 (b-1)(3) by successfully completing an

15 advanced computer science course;

16   (2) participating school districts implement rigorous

17 standards, as developed by the commissioner, for computer science

18 courses that are focused on the creation and use of software and

19 computing technologies; and

20   (3) classroom teachers employed by participating

21 school districts have increased opportunities to become certified

22 as computer science teachers.

23   (b) The commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary to

24 administer this section.

1   (c) This section expires July 1, 2020.

2   SECTION 2. The commissioner of education shall establish

3 the pilot program under Section 28.018, Education Code, as added by

4 this Act, not later than September 1, 2015.

5   SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

6 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as

7 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

8 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

9 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.