By Senator Harrell

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30	to their obtaining a teaching certificate in order to help
31	alleviate the growing teacher shortage throughout this state.
32	(2) In order to participate in the pilot program, school
33	districts must submit an application to the department by
34	October 1, 2023. The Commissioner of Education shall select up
35	to three school districts for participation in the pilot
36	program. The commissioner shall select one school district of a
37	county with a population less than 100,000 as of the most recent
38	decennial census, one school district of a county with a
39	population between 100,000 and 500,000 as of the most recent
40	decennial census, and one school district of a county with a
41	population exceeding 500,000 as of the most recent decennial
42	census. The commissioner shall coordinate with state
43	universities in proximity of the selected school districts to
44	assist in the department's administration of the pilot program.
45	(3) To be eligible to participate in the pilot program, an
46	employee of a participating school district must:
47	1. Be employed as an educational support employee or as an
48	education paraprofessional and have received an associate degree
49	or successfully completed 60 semester credit hours at a
50	postsecondary institution.
51	2. Commit to teach in the school district for a minimum of
52	2 years or a pro rata number of years after obtaining a teaching
53	certificate.
54	(4) Funds appropriated for the pilot program must be used
55	for all of the following:
56	(a) Establishing a customized coursework schedule to allow
57	for flexibility for participating school district employees to
58	complete credit hours toward earning a bachelor's degree while

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maintaining employment with the school district and ultimately
attaining a teacher certification.
(b) Financial support for tuition, credentials, technology,
and instructional materials for participating school district
employees.
(5) Participating school districts shall submit a report to
the Commissioner of Education by June 1 of each year for the
duration of the pilot program which includes, but is not limited
to, detailing findings regarding the pilot program's
implementation and whether it is meeting its intended goal of
serving as a recruitment tool and a strategy to retain school
district employees in order to alleviate the growing teacher
shortage in this state.
(6) The State Board of Education may adopt rules to
administer this section.
(7) This section expires June 30, 2026.
Section 2. This act shall take effect July 1, 2023.

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