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TEXAS STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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GUILLEN BILL HELPS TEACHERS PREPARE TO TEACH

H.B. 1918 Creates Grant Program To Help New Teachers Teach Unfamiliar Subjects

AUSTIN - Earlier this month, State Representative Ryan Guillen (D—Rural South Texas) filed HB 1918 to create a grant program that funds the tuition for a course for teachers preparing to teach a subject they did not receive a bachelor's degree in or preparing to teach at a school with a low rating.

"Since we entrust teachers to set a strong foundation for our children's futures, it is important that we offer them the best path to success," said Guillen. "This bill establishes more confidence in both teachers and parents for them to carry out their jobs effectively."

Currently, a shortage of Texas teachers in specific subjects areas is causing a significant number of incoming teachers to teach a subject they did not receive a bachelor's degree in, resulting in a high turnover rate and negative financial impact on schools that are already struggling. HB 1918 seeks to mediate these struggles by creating a grant program that funds a course in the subject teachers are about to teach.

The grant created by HB 1918 would provide free tuition to teachers choosing to take a college credit course over a subject they are planning to teach. The course subject must be a subject the teacher has not previously studied, and only qualifies new teachers teaching an unfamiliar subject or new teachers planning to teach at an institution with a low rating. This bill would help Texas' teachers to further prepare and handle the unfamiliar subjects they learn to teach.

"Teachers help our communities in immeasurable ways," said Guillen. "With this legislation we can make their job a little easier while also helping give our students the best chance to prosper."

Representative Ryan Guillen serves ten rural South Texas counties in the Texas House of Representatives, including Atascosa, Brooks, Duval, Jim Hogg, Kenedy, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Starr, and Willacy.

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