



## STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

April 21, 2023

*\*Items added since last Update denoted in red*

*\* TAWB public comments*

### Workforce Development

#### **SB 2315 - Sen. Hughes**

Relating to the creation of a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of the functions of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services. The purpose of this Act is to provide for the creation of a task force to develop a plan for the consolidation of workforce development programs administered by the Texas Workforce Commission and social services programs administered by the Health and Human Services Commission in the event the United States Congress passes legislation to reverse the federal restrictions and allow states to consolidate these functions.

**Status:** *Referred to Finance, Placed on intent calendar*

#### **SCR 26- Sen. Hughes**

Urging Congress of the United States to amend federal law to allow states to provide for the consolidation of federally funded workforce development services. Intended to develop a consolidation plan for the delivery of workforce development and social services to its citizens in order to provide a broader and more streamlined delivery of services to those seeking such services.

**Status:** *Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development, public hearing held 4/19/2023*

#### **HB 865 – Rep. Gervin-Hawkins**

Relating to the application for funding for certain workforce development programs. Would require TWC to adopt a plan to allow nonprofit service providers to apply for funding directly from the commission if the local workforce development board is nonresponsive as defined by criteria included in the bill.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Scheduled for public hearing on 4/25/2023*

#### **HB 1338\* – Rep. Raney**

Relating to the participation of community-based organizations in workforce training programs funded by the Skills Development Fund. Would allow a community-based organization to apply for money to participate in a training program if the organization applies in partnership with a community and technical college or the Texas A&M Engineering Extension Service

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development; public hearing held on 3/28/2023*

#### **HB 1602 – Rep. Guillen**

Relating to performance criteria for the award of adult education and literacy funds. Would establish annual performance requirements that each entity that receives appropriated money must satisfy to qualify for a continuing award of funds, including, achievement of enrollment targets and performance benchmarks; and a process for giving priority in awarding funds to entities that consistently satisfy the annual performance requirements.

**Status:** *Passed House, Referred to House Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**HB 1755 – Rep. Button (companion SB 592, Sen. Alvarado)**

Relating to the creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund. Would establish a new fund to be administered by TWC to provide grants to eligible public junior colleges, public technical institutes, and nonprofit organizations. Would establish a 6-member advisory board chaired by TWC Chair.

**Status:** *HB 1755 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Placed on General State Calendar; SB 592 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development, public hearing held 4/19/2023*

**HB 2058 – Rep. Gamez**

Relating to the establishment of a skilled labor task force by certain local workforce development boards. Applies only to a board established in a county with a population of 400,000 or more that borders the Gulf of Mexico. The task force shall study and develop recommendations for the legislature and board regarding strategies for improving the delivery of workforce education and workforce training and services in the board's local workforce development area.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Scheduled for public hearing on 4/25/2023*

**HB 2302 – Rep. Ann Johnson**

Relating to certain requirements for the operational component of a local workforce development board's local plan. Adds language for plans to establish specific goals, objectives, and performance measures for individuals who are at least 16 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, public hearing held 4/18/2023*

**HB 2368 – Rep. Muñoz, Jr.**

Relating to requirements for certain skills development fund grant proposals. Adds requirements for submitting written agreements to TWC outlining each entity's respective roles and duties if the grant is awarded.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development*

**HB 2575 – Rep. Button (Companion SB 1595, Sen. Hancock)**

Relating to the workforce diploma pilot program. C.S.H.B. 2575 seeks to reauthorize eligibility criteria for providers to participate in the program and outline the specific services providers must provide to eligible students.

**Status:** *HB 2575 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Passed by House; SB 1595 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development, public hearing held 4/19/2023*

**HB 2598 – Rep. Gamez**

Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of a workplace soft skills training pilot program. Would require TWC to establish and administer a pilot program in Cameron County offering a six-week training course on workplace soft skills, including workplace ethics and etiquette, effective communication, leadership, organizational skills, and time management; and awards a certificate of completion for a participant's successful completion of the training course.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar*

**HB 3203 – Rep. Button**

Relating to the sunset review of local workforce development boards in this state. Would subject each local workforce development board in Texas to a limited review as if it were a state agency but may not be abolished. The limited review would assess each local workforce development board's governance, management, operating structure, and compliance with the requirements of Subchapter G, Chapter 2308, or other law.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development*

**[HB 3723\\*](#) - Rep. Gerdes**

Relating to the establishment of the Rural Workforce Training Grant Program. Would require TWC to establish and administer the Rural Workforce Training Grant Program for the purpose of providing targeted funding for job-specific workforce training and related services to strengthen the skills, resources, and career opportunities of the rural workforce in this state.

**Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)**

**[HB 4383](#) - Rep. Lambert**

Relating to measures to assist small and rural school districts in implementing a collegiate model and expanding broadband access, including the establishment of the Rural Schools and Communities Technical Assistance Center and a grant program.

**Status: Referred to Public Education**

**[HB 5263](#) – Rep. Ray Lopez**

Relating to a franchise tax credit for certain taxable entities that provide certain employees with job-related skills training.

**Status: Referred to Ways & Means**

**Business Operations**

**[HB 1476](#) - Rep. Harrison**

Relating to a limitation on the salary paid to officers and employees of this state and political subdivisions of this state.

**Status: Referred to State Affairs**

**Career and Technical Education**

**[SB 697](#) – Sen. Alvarado (companion [HB 1812](#), Rep. Thierry)**

Relating to authorizing school districts to provide funding using money received under the Foundation School Program to community-based organizations for purposes of reimbursing private employers for paid internships provided to certain students in career and technology education programs in the district. Would allow a school district to contract with a community-based organization to match students in grade 11 or 12 who are participating in a career and technology education program in the district with paid internships or similar programs provided by private employers.

**Status: HB 1812 Referred to Public Education; SB 697 Referred to Education**

**[SJR 81](#) – Sen.'s Birdwell | Creighton | Eckhardt | Flores | King | LaMantia | Perry | Schwertner | Sparks**

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of career and technical education programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System.

**Status: Referred to Subcommittee on Higher Education, Placed on intent calendar**

**[HJR 201\\*](#) – Rep. Wilson**

Proposing a constitutional amendment providing for the creation of the technical institution infrastructure fund and the available workforce education fund to support the capital needs of career and technical education programs offered by the Texas State Technical College System, the Lamar Institute of Technology, Lamar State College-Orange, and Lamar State College-Port Arthur.

**Status: Referred to Higher Education, public hearing held on 4/10/2023**

**[HB 2046](#) – Rep. Muñoz, Jr.**

Relating to eligibility to receive certain federal funding for postsecondary career and technology education distributed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

**Status Referred to Higher Education**

**[HB 2346](#) – Rep. Guillen (Companion [HB 2840](#), Rep. Rogers)**

Relating to increasing the expenditure requirement for the career and technology education allotment under the Foundation School Program. Increases required expenditure in providing career and technology education programs in grades 7 through 12 from 55 percent to 65 percent.

**Status:** *HB 2346 Referred to Public Education Filed; HB 2840 Referred to Public Education*

**[HB 2615](#)\* – Rep. Gates**

Relating to the operation by a school district of a vocational education program to provide eligible high school students with vocational and educational training under a plan for the issuance of a high school diploma and the application of certain student-based allotments under the public school finance system.

**Status:** *Referred to Public Education, Scheduled for public hearing on 4/20/2023*

**Child Care**

**[SB 353](#) – Sen. Zaffirini (Companion [HB 1834](#), Rep. Senfronia Thompson)**

Relating to reimbursement rates for child-care providers participating in the Texas Rising Star Program. Would require each board to reimburse a Texas Rising Star Program provider in the board's area at the board's maximum rate of reimbursement for the provider's Texas Rising Star Program rating level regardless of the provider's published rate.

**Status:** *SB 353 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development; HB 1834 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Scheduled for public hearing on 4/25/2023*

**[SB 1145](#) – Sen. West (Companion [HB 3621](#), Rep's Talarico | Button)**

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

**Status:** *SB 1145 Referred to Local Government, public hearing held on 3/27/2023; HB 3621 Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)*

**[SJR 64](#) – Sen. West**

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation real property used to operate a child-care facility.

**Status:** *Referred to Local Government*

**[HB 342](#) - Rep. Bucy (companion [SB 38](#), Sen. Zaffirini)**

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children.

**Status:** *HB 342 Referred to Public Education; SB 38 Referred to Education*

**[HB 940](#) - Rep. Dutton**

Relating to the establishment of the private child care task force. The private child care task force would be established to study private child care providers in this state and methods to reduce the amounts charged for and increase the availability of child care provided by private child care providers.

**Status:** *Referred to House Human Services, Committee report sent to Calendars*

**[HB 1614](#) – Rep. Dutton**

Relating to the eligibility for free prekindergarten programs in public schools of certain children who are eligible for the subsidized child-care program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission.

**Status:** *Referred to Public Education, Reported favorably as substituted*

**[HB 1801](#) – Rep. Talarico**

Relating to an exemption from ad valorem taxation of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

**Status:** *Referred to Ways & Means*

**HB 1979\* – Rep. Raney (Companion [SB 1844](#), Sen. Blanco)**

Relating to the powers and duties of the Texas Workforce Commission and local workforce development boards regarding the provision of child care. Would add to the required workforce board membership representatives of the child-care workforce who constitute not less than 25 percent of the membership of the board. [Committee substitute](#) reduces the child care board representation requirement to 10% of the private sector representatives on the Board.

**Status:** *HB 1979 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development; public hearing 4/11/2023, Committee report sent to Calendars; SB 1844 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**HJR 96 – Rep. Talarico**

Proposing a constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation real property used to operate a child-care facility. **Status:** *Filed*

**HB 3771 - Rep. Julie Johnson**

Relating to the creation of the employer child-care contribution partnership program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Would require TWC to establish and administer the employer child-care contribution partnership program to support families in the state in accessing high-quality child care by incentivizing eligible employers to contribute to eligible employee child-care costs and providing a state match for funds contributed by eligible employers.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, public hearing held 4/18/2023*

**HB 3965 – Rep. Bernal**

Relating to authorizing the establishment of community child-care collaboratives and establishing a grant program for those collaboratives administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Would require TWC to develop a program for eligible community child-care collaboratives that may include a combination of local governmental entities, nonprofit community organizations, economic development agencies, local employers, licensed child-care providers, and faith-based community organizations to establish or expand quality child-care capacity in priority areas through partnerships between local stakeholders and qualified providers.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development*

**HB 4153 – Rep. Button (Duplicate [HB 1615](#), Rep. Button)**

Relating to strategies to increase the availability of child-care and prekindergarten programs. Would require TWC to establish and administer a prekindergarten partnership program to assist Texas Rising Star program providers in partnering with local school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to provide the prekindergarten classes required under Section 29.153, Education Code.

**Status:** *HB 4153 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development; HB 1615 Passed House, Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**HB 4600 – Rep. Allen**

Relating to the funding of child care facilities. Would create a dedicated Sustaining Child Care in the general revenue fund. TWC may award grants to day-care centers and group day-care homes and to family homes to provide adequate funding to allow the day-care providers to recover from the devastating effects of the COVID-19 lockdowns and the subsequent reduced enrollment and staff shortages; and ensure that day-care providers are able to remain in business to provide essential child-care services.

**Status:** *Referred to Human Services*

**HB 4747 by Rep. Bernal**

Relating to a franchise tax credit for taxable entities that provide child care.

**Status:** *Referred to Ways & Means, public hearing 4/10/2023*

### Certifications, Credentials

#### **HB 535 – Rep. Bailes**

Relating to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system. Would add to indicators of achievement under the public school accountability system various CTE programs and certifications approved by the State Board of Education based on feedback from their district, such as Workforce Boards.

**Status: Referred to Public Education**

#### **HB 2448 – Rep. Guillen**

Relating to creating a framework for including certain credentials of value offered by general academic teaching institutions as part of a baccalaureate degree program.

**Status: Referred to Higher Education**

### Corrections

#### **SB 1147 – Sen. West**

Relating to vocational training for and the occupational licensing of inmates in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. Expands language related to vocational programs providing education and training for female inmates designed to ensure successful employment following the inmate's release.

**Status: Referred to Criminal Justice**

#### **HB 4921 - Rep. Murr (Companion SB 2158, Sen. King)**

Relating to the establishment of an adult education pilot program for certain inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. The department would be required to establish a pilot program under which one or more nonprofit entities provide an adult education program to enable inmates to successfully complete a high school program that can lead to a diploma or career and technology education courses that can lead to industry certification.

**HB 4921 Filed, Referred to Corrections, public hearing held 4/10/2023, Committee report sent to Calendars; SB 2158 Referred to Education, Passed by Senate**

### Economic Development

#### **HB 5\* – Rep.'s Hunter | Meyer | Burrows | Shine | Longoria**

Relating to agreements to create jobs and to generate state and local tax revenue for this state. Would provide school districts the opportunity to grant temporary property tax abatements to businesses in exchange for sustainable careers for residents, bolstering of the domestic supply chain and adding local capital investment, while addressing concerns related to Chapter 313.

**Status: Referred to Ways & Means, Public Hearing held on 4/10/2023**

### Primary & Secondary Education

#### **SB 68 – Sen. Zaffirini (Companion HB 131\*, Rep. Murr)**

Relating to excused absences from public school for certain students to visit a professional's workplace for a career investigation day.

**Status: SB 68 Passed Senate; HB 131 Committee report sent to Calendars**

#### **SB 657 – Sen. Menéndez (Companion HB 74, Rep. Bernal)**

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Teacher Recruitment Scholarship Program and the Texas Teacher Retention Incentive Program.

**Status: SB 657 Referred to Education; HB 74 Referred to Public Education**

#### **SB 789 – Sen. Johnson**

Relating to indicators of achievement, assignment of campus performance ratings, and academic distinction designations under the public school accountability system. Would add as an additional indicator of achievement students who successfully completed a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program.

**Status: Referred to Senate Education, public hearing held 4/12/2023**



**[SB 2068](#) – Sen. Bettencourt (Companion [HB 2920\\*](#), Rep. Paul)**

Relating to the information maintained by the Texas Education Agency regarding postsecondary education and career opportunities. Intended to assist prospective postsecondary students in assessing the value of a certificate program, associate or baccalaureate degree program, or other credential program offered by an institution of higher education by comparing each institution with other institutions regarding the relative cost of obtaining the certificate, degree, or other credential.

**Status:** *SB 2068 Referred to Education; HB 2920 Referred to Higher Education, Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar*

**[HB 8](#) – Rep’s VanDeaver | Kuempel | Buckley | Bonnen | Longoria (Companion [SB 2539](#), Sen. Creighton)**

Relating to the administration, coordination, and support of public higher education, including the public junior college state finance program and a Financial Aid for Swift Transfer (FAST) program to enable certain students to enroll at no cost to the student in dual credit courses offered by certain public institutions of higher education. Among other things, CSHB 8 incorporates recommendations of the Texas Commission on Community College Finance (TxCCCCF) recommends changing the funding structure for public junior colleges to focus on student outcomes and enhance the role of public junior colleges in workforce training and preparation. The recommendations provide for the funding of small colleges and students who are economically or academically disadvantaged, as well as Texans who have earned some college credit hours. The TxCCCCF also recommends that the state support credential programs for high-demand fields that meet regional and state workforce needs.

**Status:** *HB 8 Passed House*

**[HB 977](#) – Rep. VanDeaver**

Relating to the creation of the Texas Commission on Assessment and Accountability. Would create an Assessment and Accountability Commission to fully review the Texas Education Agency’s “A-F Accountability System and make recommendations regarding improvements to how success is measured and communicated to parents.

**Status:** *Referred to House Public Education*

**[HB 1548](#) – Rep. Talarico**

Relating to the salary and wages paid to public school employees. Would provide a teacher pay raise for Texas teachers and other school personnel.

**Status:** *Referred to Public Education*

**[HB 3048](#) – Rep. Raney**

Relating to the authority of certain public institutions of higher education to offer programs and courses in junior college district service areas. States that a junior college district may not object to the implementation of a program or course offered by an institution of higher education, other than an institution of higher education that is another junior college district, solely on the basis that the program or course is offered in the objecting junior college district’s service area.

**Status:** *Referred to Higher Education*

**[HB 3676](#) – Rep. Rogers**

Relating to the creation of a rural dual credit pilot program by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Would require THECB to establish a pilot program under which the board awards grants to participating public junior colleges to provide financial assistance to educationally disadvantaged high school students for all or part of the cost of enrolling in dual credit courses at the college.

**Status:** *Referred to Higher Education*

**[HB 4402\\*](#) – Rep.’s Bell, Keith | Buckley | VanDeaver | Landgraf**

Relating to the changes to the high school graduation requirements and accountability rating system for assessing campus and district performance.

**Status:** *Referred to Public Education, Public hearing 4/20/2023, Reported favorably as substituted*

**[HB 4514\\*](#) – Rep. Allison**

Relating to public school accountability, including the assessment of academic performance, and district and campus performance standards and sanctions.

**Status: Referred to Public Education, Public hearing 4/20/2023**

**TANF/SNAP**

**[SB 557](#) – Sen. West (companion [HB 1501](#), Rep. Walle)**

Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

**Status: HB 1501 Referred to Human Services; SB 557 Referred to Health & Human Services**

**[HB 2836](#) – Rep. Walle**

Relating to eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits. Would ensure that an individual whose eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits has been initially established or recertified remains eligible to receive those benefits for a period of 12 months.

**Status: Referred to Human Services**

**[HB 4008](#) - Rep. Slawson**

Relating to the drug testing of certain persons seeking benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program.

**Status: Referred to Human Services**

**[HB 4021](#) - Rep. Howard**

Relating to the eligibility of certain students enrolled in a postsecondary educational institution for the supplemental nutrition assistance program. Would provide an exemption from work requirements to provide supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to certain individuals.

**Status: Referred to Human Services**

**Texas Workforce Commission**

**[SB 1687](#) – Sen. Blanco (Companion [HB 4723](#), Rep. Ordaz)**

Relating to the direct reimbursement of certain employers under the Skills Development Fund.

**Status: SB 1687 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development; HB 4723 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development**

**[SB 2300](#) - Sen. Zaffirini (Companion [HB 4683](#), Rep. Button)**

Relating to establishing a statewide reading enrichment program.

**Status: SB 2300 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development; HB 4683 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development**

**[HB 1703](#) – Rep. Ordaz Perez**

Relating to the workforce development evaluation system administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. Would add evaluation data to include the attainment of employment paying a self-sufficient wage, following completion of a career education and training program.

**Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Reported favorably as substituted**

**[HB 3900](#) – Rep. Lambert**

Relating to the use of money awarded from the Skills Development Fund (SDF). SDF grants can support start-up costs and training programs. There currently is a limit in which only 10 percent of an SDF grant amount may be used for proprietary or production equipment purchases necessary for a training project. H.B. 3900 seeks to provide greater flexibility for educational partners and opportunities to expand access to modern workforce training by increasing that cap to 25 percent on the amount of an SDF grant that may be used for such purchases.

**Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar**



**[HB 4131\\*](#) – Rep. Bailes**

Relating to the use of funds awarded under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. Expands language on the use of JET grants to pay costs for the acquisition, implementation, and ongoing maintenance of technology solutions necessary to support programs.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar*

**Work-Based Learning**

**[HB 3785](#) – Rep. Guillen**

Relating to a franchise tax credit for taxable entities that employ certain apprentices. A taxable entity qualifies for a credit under this subchapter if, during the period for which the credit is claimed, the entity employs at least one qualifying apprentice.

**Status:** *Referred to Ways & Means*

**[HB 4390](#) - Rep. Button**

Relating to the Texas Industry-Recognized Apprenticeship Programs Grant Program. Amends current statutory language to designate TWC, in place of the US Department of Labor, as the certifying body of certain industry-recognized apprenticeship programs.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Committee report sent to Calendars*

**[HB 4411](#) – Rep. Dutton**

Relating to the apprenticeship system of adult career and technology education. Would add the attainment of an apprenticeship certified by the Texas Workforce Commission as an industry-recognized apprenticeship program as acceptable programs of study for adult career and technology education. Also would require TWC to establish procedures and standards by which the commission may allocate funds available for the support of apprenticeship training programs to support paid pre-apprenticeships designed for high school students enrolled in career and technical education programs of study leading to employment in high-wage, high-demand occupations.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Reported favorably as substituted*

**[HB 4451](#) - Rep. Bhojani**

Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding apprenticeship opportunities in this state for emerging and high-demand industries. Would require TWC each year, in consultation with each local workforce development board, to prepare and submit to the legislature a report on available apprenticeship programs in this state and make recommendations to expand the availability of apprenticeship programs in emerging and high-demand industries.

**Status:** *Referred to International Relations & Economic Development, Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar*

**Veterans**

**[HJR 67](#) – Rep. Ray Lopez**

Proposing a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to appropriate funds to state institutions of higher education to fund certain education programs for veterans.

**Status:** *Referred to Appropriations*