



## STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

May 31, 2023

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

*\* TAWB public comments*

### PASSED

#### **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:** Passed House, *Passed Senate as amended*, *Sent to the Governor*

#### **HB 8** – Rep's VanDeaver | Kuempel | Buckley | Bonnen | Longoria

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:** Passed House, *Passed Senate as amended*, *Sent to the Governor*

#### **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 requirements.

**Status:** Passed House, Passed Senate, *Sent to the Governor*, *Signed by the Governor*, *Effective on 9/1/23*

#### **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 Pre-K classes.

**Status:** Passed House, Passed Senate, *Sent to the Governor*

#### **HB 1703** – Rep. Ordaz Perez

Relating to the workforce development evaluation system administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. [C.S.H.B. 1703](#) seeks to craft targeted program changes to improve participants' outcomes in a state-supported workforce training program by revising requirements relating to workforce development program evaluation data and related analyses and by creating a pilot program requiring data collection and analysis of career education and training programs and program outcomes in the Borderplex workforce development area.

**Status:** Passed House, *Passed Senate*, *Sent to the Governor*

**[HB 1755](#) – Rep. Button**

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. [C.S.H.B. 1755](#) would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds.

**Status:** *Passed by House, Passed by Senate, Sent to the Governor, Signed by the Governor, Effective on 9/1/23*

**[HB 2575](#) – Rep. Button**

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.

**Status:** *Passed by House, Passed Senate, Sent to the Governor, Signed by the Governor*

**[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:** *Passed House, Passed Senate as amended, Sent to the Governor*

**[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:** *Passed House, Passed Senate, Sent to the Governor*

**[SB 68\\*](#) – Sen. Zaffirini**

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. Passed House, Sent to the Governor, Signed by the Governor*

**[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. S.J.R. 64 proposes an amendment to the Texas Constitution to authorize the governing body of a county or municipality to exempt from property taxation all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility. The governing body may adopt the exemption as a percentage of not less than 50 percent of the appraised value of the real property.

**Status:** *Adopted by Senate, Adopted by House*

**[SB 1145](#) – Sen. West**

Relating to a local option exemption from ad valorem taxation by a county or municipality of all or part of the appraised value of real property used to operate a child-care facility.

**Status:** *SB 1145 Passed Senate, Passed House, Sent to the Governor, Signed by the Governor*

**[SB 1327](#) – Sen. Blanco**

Relating to authorizing a day-care center to employ an interim director. This bill eliminates the requirement for childcare directors to have completed the educational component of their credentials, hire an “interim director” for a year, and give them time to complete their educational credentials.

**Status:** *Passed Senate, Passed House, Sent to the Governor*

**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.

**Status:** *Passed by Senate, Passed by House, Sent to the Governor, Signed by the Governor*

**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:** *Passed Senate, Passed House as amended, Sent to the Governor*

**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:** *Adopted by Senate, Adopted by House, Sent to the Governor*

**FAILED**

**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:** *Died in House Appropriations*

**HB 100 – Rep.'s King, Ken | VanDeaver | Dutton | Howard | Buckley**

Relating to the compensation of public school educators and to the operation of public schools and the public school finance system, including enrollment-based funding for certain allotments under the Foundation School Program. C.S.H.B. 100 seeks to increase public education funding, including through enrollment-based funding under the foundation school program and increase and restructure the minimum salary schedule for specified employees. As passed by the House, the bill also removes the basic allotment (1.0 or \$6,160) historically associated with CTE and assigns it to the regular allotment, resulting in a significant decrease in CTE funding.

**Status:** *Passed House, Passed Senate as Amended, Died in conference committee*

**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:** *Died in House Public Education*

**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:** *Died in House International Relations & Economic Development*

**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:** Passed House, *Died in Senate Health & Human Services*

**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:** *Died in House Public Education*

**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:** Passed House, *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**HB 1476 - Rep. Harrison**

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

**Status:** *Died in House State Affairs*

**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:** *Died in House Public Education*

**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:** Passed House, *Died in Senate Education*

**HB 1979\* – Rep. Raney**

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:** Passed House, *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**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:** *Died in House Higher Education*

**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:** Passed House, *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[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:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[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 Died in House Public Education Filed; HB 2840 Died in House Public Education*

**[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:** *Died in House International Relations & Economic Development*

**[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:** *Died in House Higher Education*

**[HB 2466](#) – Rep's Button | Capriglione | González, Mary | Ashby | Johnson, Ann**

Relating to the creation of the Texas technology and innovation program. [C.S.H.B. 2466](#) amends the Government Code to require the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office (TEDTO) to establish and administer the Texas technology and innovation program.

**Status:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[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:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[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:** *Died in House*

**[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:** *Died in House Human Services*

**[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.

**Status:** *Died in House Higher Education*

### **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:** *Died in House International Relations & Economic Development*

### **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:** *Died in House Higher Education*

### **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. The bill would make no appropriation but could provide the legal basis for an appropriation of funds to implement the provisions of the bill.

**Status:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

### **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.

**Status:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

### **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:** *Died in House Ways & Means*

### **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, Died in Local & Consent Calendar*

### **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:** *Died in House International Relations & Economic Development*

**HB 4008 - Rep. Slawson**

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

**Status:** *Died in House Human Services*

**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:** *Passed House, Died in Senate s/c on Higher Education*

**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:** *Died in House Human Services*

**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:** *Died in House Public Education*

**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:** *Passed House, Passed Senate as amended, Died in the House*

**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. C.S.H.B. 4402 seeks to reduce the burden of high-stakes testing on students and parents and enable public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools to focus on other initiatives and programs that emphasize student success in a variety of areas of growth and development.

**Status:** *Passed House, Died in Senate Education*

**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.

**Status:** *Died in House*

**HB 4514\* – Rep. Allison**

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

**Status:** *Died in House Public Education*

**HB 4600 – Rep. Allen**

Relating to the funding of child care facilities. Would create a dedicated Sustaining Child Care in the general revenue fund.

**Status:** *Died in House Human Services*

**[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:** *Died in House Ways & Means*

**[SB 38](#) - Sen. Zaffirini**

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

**Status:** *Died in Senate 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:** *Passed Senate, Passed House as amended, Died in conference committee*

**[SB 353](#) – Sen. Zaffirini**

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:** *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[SB 557](#) – Sen. West**

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

**Status:** *Died in Senate Health & Human Services*

**[SB 657](#) – Sen. Menéndez**

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

**Status:** *Died in Senate Education*

**[SB 697](#) – Sen. Alvarado**

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:** *Died in Senate 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:** *Passed by Senate, Died in House Public Education*

**[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:** *Died in Senate Criminal Justice*



**[SB 1687](#) – Sen. Blanco**

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

**Status:** *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**[SB 2300](#) - Sen. Zaffirini**

Relating to establishing a statewide reading enrichment program.

**Status:** *Died in Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*