

By: Talarico

H.B. No. 333

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a Texas Service Corps to provide student loan relief, job training, and work experience, in exchange for providing community service in underserved areas.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 318 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 318. TEXAS SERVICE CORPS

Sec.318.001 ESTABLISHING A TEXAS SERVICE CORPS. (a) It is hereby established a Texas Service Corps, administered by the Texas Workforce Commission. The Service Corps shall provide interested applicants with service opportunities deemed most likely to further an applicant's stated educational and professional interests. The services to be provided include, but are not limited to:

(i) green jobs in service of activities or industries that contribute substantially to preserving or restoring environmental quality;

(ii) health services by applicants with the necessary qualifications to provide medical, dental, psychological, or other related services as deemed appropriate by Service Corps administration;

(iii) services that benefit the developmental and educational needs of early childhood; and

(iv) services that provide exposure to, and participation

1 in, the Arts or Humanities.

2 (b) Individuals who complete a term of service, shall be  
3 eligible for an education grant to be used for either tuition costs  
4 at eligible Texas institutions of higher learning or student loan  
5 repayment.

6 (c) Funding for the education grant shall be comprised of  
7 any federal dollars allocated for implementing community service  
8 programs, with necessary additional funding allocated through  
9 Texas budgetary procedures.

10 (d) The Texas Service Corps shall, in consultation with  
11 administrative agencies deemed relevant and necessary by the Texas  
12 Legislature, have the following powers and duties:

13 (i) to recruit and select Service Corps professionals for  
14 service in eligible institutions, facilities, or professions;

15 (ii) to place Service Corps professionals in eligible  
16 institutions and facilities pursuant to agreements with the  
17 appropriate eligible institutions and facilities;

18 (iii) to develop criteria for the selection of applicants  
19 for placement under this program including, but not limited to, the  
20 individual's academic achievement, previous work experience in the  
21 relevant industry or related services, a demonstrated interest in  
22 working with vulnerable populations or providing community  
23 service;

24 (iv) to accept and expend any grants, awards or other funds  
25 or appropriations as may be available to effectuate the purposes of  
26 this Act subject to the limitations as to the approval of  
27 expenditures and audit as prescribed for state funds by STATE

1 finance law; and

2 (v) to do any and all other things necessary to carry out its  
3 functions, powers and duties and to effectuate the purposes of this  
4 Act.

5 (e) The nature and extent of a proposed service project  
6 shall be submitted in writing to the appropriate delegated  
7 oversight entity prior to expending any public funds.

8 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
9 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
10 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
11 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
12 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.