

1-1 By: Creighton, et al. S.B. No. 1102
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 5, 2021; March 18, 2021, read
 1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Higher Education;
 1-4 April 19, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
 1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 9, Nays 0; April 19, 2021,
 1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			
1-16	X			
1-17	X			

1-18 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1102 By: Creighton

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the establishment of the Texas Reskilling and
 1-22 Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program to support workforce
 1-23 education.

1-24 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-25 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-26 Subchapter T-2 to read as follows:

1-27 SUBCHAPTER T-2. TEXAS RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING THROUGH EDUCATION
 1-28 (TRUE) PROGRAM

1-29 Sec. 61.881. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-30 (1) "Eligible entity" means:

1-31 (A) a public junior college or public technical
 1-32 institute;

1-33 (B) a consortium of public junior colleges or
 1-34 public technical institutes; or

1-35 (C) a local chamber of commerce, trade
 1-36 association, or economic development corporation that partners
 1-37 with a public junior college or public technical institute or a
 1-38 consortium of public junior colleges or public technical
 1-39 institutes.

1-40 (2) "Program" means the Texas Reskilling and
 1-41 Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program established under this
 1-42 subchapter.

1-43 Sec. 61.882. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION; PURPOSE. (a)
 1-44 The Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE)
 1-45 Program is established to strengthen the Texas workforce and build
 1-46 a stronger Texas economy.

1-47 (b) The board shall administer the program in accordance
 1-48 with this subchapter and rules adopted under this subchapter.

1-49 (c) Under the program, using funds appropriated or
 1-50 otherwise available for the purpose, the board shall award grants
 1-51 to eligible entities for creating, redesigning, or expanding
 1-52 workforce training programs and delivering education and workforce
 1-53 training that:

1-54 (1) lead to postsecondary industry certifications or
 1-55 other workforce credentials required for high-demand occupations;

1-56 (2) are developed and provided in consultation with
 1-57 employers who are hiring in high-demand occupations; and

1-58 (3) create pathways to employment for students and
 1-59 learners.

1-60 (d) In awarding grants under this subchapter, the board:

2-1 (1) shall, to the greatest extent practicable:
 2-2 (A) award grants to at least one eligible entity
 2-3 in each region of the state; and
 2-4 (B) ensure that each training program:
 2-5 (i) matches regional workforce needs;
 2-6 (ii) is supported by a labor market
 2-7 analysis of job postings and employers hiring roles with the skills
 2-8 developed by the program; and
 2-9 (iii) does not duplicate existing program
 2-10 offerings within the region; and
 2-11 (2) may give preference to applicants that:
 2-12 (A) represent a consortium of public junior
 2-13 colleges and public technical institutes;
 2-14 (B) prioritize training to displaced workers;
 2-15 (C) offer affordable training programs to
 2-16 students; or
 2-17 (D) partner with local chambers of commerce,
 2-18 trade associations, economic development corporations, and local
 2-19 workforce boards to analyze job postings and identify employers
 2-20 hiring roles with the skills developed by the training programs.
 2-21 Sec. 61.883. USE OF GRANT. (a) A grant awarded to an
 2-22 eligible entity under this subchapter may be used only for the
 2-23 support and maintenance of educational and general activities that
 2-24 promote workforce learning, including:
 2-25 (1) providing training in existing, new, or redesigned
 2-26 accelerated programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to
 2-27 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
 2-28 credentials valued in growing occupations;
 2-29 (2) developing new industry-aligned, high-demand
 2-30 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
 2-31 credentials and certificate programs or other courses of
 2-32 instruction leading to those certifications or credentials that can
 2-33 be completed in six months or less;
 2-34 (3) redesigning existing postsecondary industry
 2-35 certifications or credentials and certificate programs or other
 2-36 courses of instruction leading to those certifications or
 2-37 credentials to meet the standards under Subdivision (2);
 2-38 (4) expanding institutional capacity to provide
 2-39 high-demand postsecondary industry certifications or other
 2-40 workforce credentials that are stackable in high-demand career
 2-41 pathways and address the needs of high-demand occupations
 2-42 identified by the Texas Workforce Commission or applicable local
 2-43 workforce development boards;
 2-44 (5) providing student aid awards to incentivize
 2-45 enrollment in and completion of industry-aligned, high-demand
 2-46 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
 2-47 credentials and certificate programs or other courses of
 2-48 instruction leading to those certifications or credentials; and
 2-49 (6) tracking and reporting enrollment, credential
 2-50 completion, and employment outcomes for students in courses and
 2-51 programs described by this subsection to gauge the impact on
 2-52 student success.
 2-53 (b) Money received by an eligible entity under the program
 2-54 in a fiscal year that is not used by the entity in that fiscal year
 2-55 may be held and used by the entity in the subsequent fiscal year for
 2-56 the purposes prescribed in this section if the entity provides to
 2-57 the board a reasonable explanation for holding and using the money
 2-58 in the subsequent fiscal year.
 2-59 Sec. 61.884. RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS OR CREDENTIALS. (a)
 2-60 The board, in collaboration with eligible entities, the Texas
 2-61 Workforce Commission, and private employers, shall identify
 2-62 existing and develop new postsecondary industry certifications or
 2-63 other workforce credentials valued in high-demand occupations.
 2-64 (b) The board, in consultation with eligible entities,
 2-65 shall:
 2-66 (1) identify postsecondary industry certifications or
 2-67 other workforce credentials developed or redesigned using grant
 2-68 funds under the program; and
 2-69 (2) establish methods for collecting and reporting

3-1 data related to the certifications or credentials identified under
3-2 Subdivision (1).

3-3 (c) An eligible entity awarded a grant under this subchapter
3-4 may recommend outcomes related to the achievement or development of
3-5 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
3-6 credentials identified under this section to be considered by the
3-7 board for inclusion in the state's long-range master plan for
3-8 higher education developed under Section 61.051.

3-9 (d) In devising its funding formulas and making its
3-10 recommendations to the legislature relating to institutional
3-11 appropriations of funds for public junior colleges and public
3-12 technical institutes under Section 61.059, the board shall
3-13 incorporate the consideration of the achievement or development of
3-14 postsecondary industry certifications and other workforce
3-15 credentials identified under this section.

3-16 Sec. 61.885. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. The board may
3-17 solicit, accept, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any
3-18 public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

3-19 Sec. 61.886. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
3-20 administration of this subchapter, including rules requiring
3-21 eligible entities awarded a grant under this subchapter to report
3-22 necessary information to the board.

3-23 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
3-24 Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter T-2, Chapter 61,
3-25 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
3-26 the effective date of this Act.

3-27 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
3-28 award grants under Subchapter T-2, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
3-29 added by this Act, beginning with the 2021 fall semester.

3-30 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is
3-31 required to implement this Act only if the legislature appropriates
3-32 money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
3-33 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the coordinating
3-34 board may, but is not required to, implement this Act using other
3-35 appropriations available for that purpose.

3-36 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3-37 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
3-38 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
3-39 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
3-40 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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