

By: Bettencourt

S.B. No. 2066

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to state agency employment openings and aptitude assessments.

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

SECTION 1. Section 656.002, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (b), (c), and (e) and adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

(b) The online system for listing state agency employment openings maintained by the Texas Workforce Commission must allow an applicant for employment to:

(1) complete a single state application and the standardized aptitude test described by Section 656.028 online; and

(2) enter the application and the standardized aptitude test into an online database from which the applicant may electronically send the application and the standardized aptitude test to multiple state agencies.

(c) The Texas Workforce Commission shall:

(1) prescribe a standard electronic format for the online application and standardized aptitude test described by Subsection (b); and

(2) ensure that the commission's online system allows an applicant to submit and a state agency to receive an online application and the standardized aptitude test for state agency employment.

1 (e) This section does not prohibit a state agency from
2 accepting an application for an employment opening, the
3 standardized aptitude test, or a specialized aptitude test in a
4 manner other than the manner described by this section.

5 (f) The online system must inform an applicant that the
6 applicant is not required to complete the standardized aptitude
7 test to apply for an employment opening.

8 (g) The online system must list the classified positions for
9 which the standardized aptitude test will be accepted.

10 SECTION 2. Subchapter B, Chapter 656, Government Code, is
11 amended by adding Section 656.028 to read as follows:

12 Sec. 656.028. APTITUDE ASSESSMENTS. (a) In this section:

13 (1) "Career education and training program" has the
14 meaning assigned by Section 2308A.001.

15 (2) "Specialized aptitude test" means an assessment of
16 the competencies and skills needed for a specific state agency
17 position that are not measured by the standardized aptitude test,
18 including a skills demonstration, skills-based questionnaire,
19 skills-based interview, and any other valid skills measurement
20 strategy.

21 (3) "Standardized aptitude test" means the uniform
22 assessment that measures the skill set of a job applicant developed
23 by the Texas Workforce Commission under this section.

24 (b) Each state agency shall at least once each calendar year
25 review each classified position in the state agency to determine
26 the skills needed for each position. The state agency shall compile
27 a list of skills identified under this subsection and submit the

1 list to the Texas Workforce Commission.

2 (c) The Texas Workforce Commission shall review each list of
3 skills submitted under Subsection (b) and determine the skills
4 shared across state agency classified positions. The commission
5 shall develop, in consultation with state agencies, a standardized
6 aptitude test to determine whether a job applicant has the shared
7 skills. The commission may contract with a person that specializes
8 in certification of occupation-based skills assessments to
9 develop, certify, or evaluate the results of the standardized
10 aptitude test.

11 (d) The Texas Workforce Commission shall make the
12 standardized aptitude test available on the online state agency
13 employment applications system described by Section 656.002.

14 (e) If a state agency determines a specialized aptitude test
15 would improve the agency's hiring process, the agency must consult
16 with the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative established by Chapter
17 2308A to align the career education and training programs and state
18 workforce development strategies developed under Section 2308A.006
19 with the competencies and skills measured by the test.

20 (f) A state agency may not consider the fact that an
21 applicant for employment did not complete the standardized aptitude
22 test in making a hiring determination.

23 (g) The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules
24 necessary to implement this section.

25 SECTION 3. Each state agency shall complete the initial
26 review required by Section 656.028(b), Government Code, as added by
27 this Act, and submit the list of skills to the Texas Workforce

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1 Commission not later than December 1, 2024.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.