

By: Chavez

H.B. No. 3295

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of certain adult education and literacy programs.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 301, Labor Code, is amended by adding Subchapter I to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER I. ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY

Sec. 301.151. COOPERATION WITH TEXAS EDUCATION AGENCY TO IMPROVE ADULT EDUCATION AND LITERACY SERVICES. The commission shall collaborate with the Texas Education Agency to improve the coordination and implementation of adult education and literacy services in this state.

Sec. 301.152. DEVELOPMENT OF WORKPLACE LITERACY AND BASIC SKILLS CURRICULUM. (a) Under contract with the Texas Education Agency, the commission shall develop a demand-driven workplace literacy and basic skills curriculum aimed at assisting local workforce development boards to equip workers and job seekers with the skills necessary to compete for current and emerging jobs in this state.

(b) In developing the general curriculum required by Subsection (a), the commission shall:

(1) evaluate existing efforts and potential cost savings resulting from designing specific curricula that address the needs of various industry sectors in the business community;

1 (2) contract for field work to solicit the assistance
2 of workers, employers, providers, and local workforce development
3 boards in developing industry sector curricula;

4 (3) target up to five industry sectors in the business
5 community that are likely to benefit from the development of
6 specific curricula; and

7 (4) pilot test the curricula within the targeted
8 industry sectors and adjust the curricula based on feedback
9 received from workers and employers in those sectors.

10 (c) The curricula developed under this section must:

11 (1) address the needs of industry sectors in
12 coordination with the local workforce development boards;

13 (2) use:

14 (A) Spanish language or bilingual approaches as
15 appropriate;

16 (B) effective and time-sensitive instructional
17 methods for each population;

18 (C) technology as appropriate for the delivery of
19 the curricula; and

20 (D) appropriate instructional materials and
21 media;

22 (3) include:

23 (A) a content-appropriate assessment for student
24 intake; and

25 (B) a performance-based assessment for progress
26 and completion measures; and

27 (4) target occupations as specified by the commission

1 as necessary to address business demand in each local workforce
2 development board area.

3 (d) Based on the curriculum developed under this section,
4 the commission shall develop workforce basic skills credentials to
5 be used to define, measure, and certify the mastery of the basic
6 skills required by the curricula developed under this section.

7 (e) This section expires September 1, 2005.

8 SECTION 2. Section 302.021(a), Labor Code, is amended to
9 read as follows:

10 (a) The following job-training, employment, and
11 employment-related educational programs and functions are
12 consolidated under the authority of the division:

13 (1) ~~[adult education programs under Subchapter H,~~
14 ~~Chapter 29, Education Code,~~

15 ~~[(2)]~~ proprietary school programs under Chapter 132,
16 Education Code;

17 (2) ~~[(3)]~~ apprenticeship programs under Chapter 133,
18 Education Code;

19 (3) ~~[(4)]~~ postsecondary vocational and technical
20 job-training programs that are not a part of approved courses or
21 programs that lead to licensing, certification, or an associate
22 degree under Chapters 61, 130, and 135, Education Code, Subchapter
23 E, Chapter 88, Education Code, and Subchapter E, Chapter 96,
24 Education Code;

25 (4) ~~[(5)]~~ employment programs under Chapter 31, Human
26 Resources Code;

27 (5) ~~[(6)]~~ the senior citizens employment program

1 under Chapter 101, Human Resources Code;

2 (6) [~~(7)~~] the work and family policies program under
3 Chapter 81;

4 (7) [~~(8)~~] job-training programs funded under [~~the Job~~
5 ~~Training Partnership Act (29 U.S.C. Section 1501 et seq.) and~~
6 ~~under~~] the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 (29 U.S.C. Section 2801
7 et seq.);

8 (8) [~~(9)~~] the job counseling program for displaced
9 homemakers under Chapter 304;

10 (9) [~~(10)~~] the reintegration of offenders program
11 under Chapter 306;

12 (10) [~~(11)~~] the inmate employment counseling program
13 under Section 499.051(f), Government Code;

14 (11) [~~(12)~~] the continuity of care program under
15 Section 501.095, Government Code;

16 (12) [~~(13)~~] a literacy program from state, local,
17 federal, and private funds available to the state for that purpose;

18 (13) [~~(14)~~] the employment service;

19 (14) [~~(15)~~] the community service program under the
20 National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. Section 12501
21 et seq.);

22 (15) [~~(16)~~] the trade adjustment assistance program
23 under Part 2, Subchapter II, Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. Section
24 2271 et seq.);

25 (16) [~~(17)~~] education, employment, employment
26 support, training services, activities and programs funded under
27 Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (42 U.S.C. Section 601 et

1 seq.);

2 (17) [~~(18)~~] the food stamp employment and training
3 program authorized under 7 U.S.C. Section 2015(d); and

4 (18) [~~(19)~~] the functions of the State Occupational
5 Information Coordinating Committee.

6 SECTION 3. Section 29.252, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsection (a-1) to read as
8 follows:

9 (a) The agency shall:

10 (1) provide adequate staffing to develop, administer,
11 and support a comprehensive statewide adult education program and
12 coordinate related federal and state programs for education and
13 training of adults;

14 (2) develop, implement, and regulate a comprehensive
15 statewide program for community level education services to meet
16 the special needs of adults;

17 (3) develop the mechanism and guidelines for
18 coordination of comprehensive adult education and related skill
19 training services for adults with other agencies, both public and
20 private, in planning, developing, and implementing related
21 programs, including community education programs;

22 (4) administer all state and federal funds for adult
23 education and related skill training in this state, except in
24 programs for which another entity is specifically authorized to do
25 so under other law;

26 (5) prescribe and administer standards and
27 accrediting policies for adult education;

1 (6) prescribe and administer rules for teacher
2 certification for adult education;

3 (7) accept and administer grants, gifts, services, and
4 funds from available sources for use in adult education; ~~and~~

5 (8) adopt or develop and administer a standardized
6 assessment mechanism for assessing all adult education program
7 participants who need literacy instruction, adult basic education,
8 or secondary education leading to an adult high school diploma or
9 the equivalent;

10 (9) collaborate with the Texas Workforce Commission to
11 improve the coordination and implementation of adult education and
12 literacy services in this state; and

13 (10) monitor and evaluate educational and employment
14 outcomes of students who participate in the agency's adult
15 education and literacy programs.

16 (a-1) The agency shall use existing federal funds to
17 contract with the Texas Workforce Commission for the development of
18 a demand-driven workplace literacy and basic skills curriculum that
19 complies with the requirements adopted under Section 301.152, Labor
20 Code. This subsection expires September 1, 2005.

21 SECTION 4. The Texas Workforce Commission shall implement
22 Section 301.151, Labor Code, as added by this Act, as soon as
23 possible after the effective date of this Act.

24 SECTION 5. The Texas Workforce Commission shall implement
25 Section 301.152, Labor Code, as added by this Act, not later than
26 February 1, 2004.

27 SECTION 6. The Texas Education Agency shall implement

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1 Section 29.252(a), Education Code, as amended by this Act, and
2 Section 29.252(a-1), Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon
3 as possible after the effective date of this Act.

4 SECTION 7. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.