

1-1 By: Keffer of Eastland, et al. H.B. No. 1747
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Staples)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 28, 2005;
1-4 April 29, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on
1-5 Business and Commerce; May 9, 2005, reported adversely, with
1-6 favorable Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 6,
1-7 Nays 0; May 9, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-8 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 1747 By: Estes

1-9 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-10 AN ACT

1-11 relating to the creation of and funding for the Texas
1-12 Entrepreneurship Network.

1-13 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-14 SECTION 1. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended
1-15 by adding Chapter 490 to read as follows:

1-16 CHAPTER 490. TEXAS ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK

1-17 Sec. 490.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-18 (1) "Entrepreneur participant" means an individual
1-19 who has a business or an idea for a business and registers with the
1-20 network.

1-21 (2) "Fund" means the Texas Entrepreneurship Network
1-22 fund.

1-23 (3) "Network" means the Texas Entrepreneurship
1-24 Network.

1-25 Sec. 490.002. ESTABLISHMENT OF NETWORK. (a) The Texas
1-26 Entrepreneurship Network is established to develop and diversify
1-27 the economy of this state through:

1-28 (1) the provision of programs and services to
1-29 facilitate the growth and success of entrepreneurs; and

1-30 (2) the statewide, results-driven collaboration of
1-31 public and private entities to create jobs and energize sustainable
1-32 local economies through the development of entrepreneurs in this
1-33 state.

1-34 (b) The Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship shall:

1-35 (1) operate the network under an agreement with the
1-36 Department of Agriculture and as provided by this chapter; and

1-37 (2) comply with all reasonable and customary oversight
1-38 measures required by the Department of Agriculture.

1-39 Sec. 490.003. MEMBERS OF NETWORK. (a) The founding
1-40 members of the network are:

1-41 (1) the Texas Cooperative Extension of The Texas A&M
1-42 University System;

1-43 (2) the IC2 Institute at The University of Texas at
1-44 Austin;

1-45 (3) the College of Agricultural Sciences and Natural
1-46 Resources at Texas Tech University;

1-47 (4) the Department of Agriculture;

1-48 (5) the Texas Workforce Commission;

1-49 (6) the Office of Rural Community Affairs;

1-50 (7) the Texas Center for Rural Entrepreneurship;

1-51 (8) the Texas Economic Development Council;

1-52 (9) CoSERVE at The University of Texas--Pan American;

1-53 (10) the office of external affairs at Texas Southern
1-54 University; and

1-55 (11) the John F. Baugh Center for Entrepreneurship at
1-56 Baylor University.

1-57 (b) An institution of higher education, chamber of
1-58 commerce, economic development corporation, business, or
1-59 organization with an interest in promoting entrepreneurship may
1-60 join the network.

1-61 Sec. 490.004. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The Texas Center for
1-62 Rural Entrepreneurship shall establish an advisory board to guide
1-63 and advise the operations of the network.

2-1 (b) The advisory board consists of one representative from
 2-2 each of the founding members of the network under Section
 2-3 490.003(a), and at least one member from the private sector. An
 2-4 organization other than a founding member of the network under
 2-5 Section 490.003(a) may have a representative on the advisory board
 2-6 only if the creation of an additional seat on the board is
 2-7 authorized by a two-thirds majority vote of the existing board.

2-8 (c) The initial advisory board shall adopt provisions to
 2-9 determine the terms of board members and stagger the members'
 2-10 terms, and other provisions necessary to administer the board.

2-11 (d) Advisory board members serve without compensation but
 2-12 are entitled to reimbursement for reasonable expenses incurred in
 2-13 traveling to meetings related to the network.

2-14 Sec. 490.005. GENERAL DUTIES AND GOALS. (a) The network
 2-15 shall train and refocus existing state and local resources to build
 2-16 a more prosperous, dynamic, and sustainable economy throughout this
 2-17 state by:

2-18 (1) providing coordinated training and services that
 2-19 enhance the value of the state's existing infrastructure
 2-20 investments and make the investments available to entrepreneur
 2-21 participants;

2-22 (2) developing a statewide network of
 2-23 entrepreneurship developers and entrepreneurship centers as
 2-24 provided by Section 490.006;

2-25 (3) developing a comprehensive network of knowledge,
 2-26 leadership, and financial capital resources accessible through the
 2-27 network's entrepreneurship developers and entrepreneurship
 2-28 centers;

2-29 (4) educating entrepreneur participants and
 2-30 generating awareness of the network and its programs;

2-31 (5) identifying the most promising ventures through
 2-32 activities, including business-plan competitions, and assisting
 2-33 the ventures' potential for job and wealth creation;

2-34 (6) developing evaluation methods to measure the
 2-35 effectiveness of the network and the impact of entrepreneurship on
 2-36 local and regional economies;

2-37 (7) developing best practices for successful
 2-38 entrepreneurship and applied research regarding critical success
 2-39 factors for entrepreneurial businesses to provide a strategic
 2-40 competitive advantage for businesses in this state; and

2-41 (8) collaborating with existing local, state, and
 2-42 federal agencies and economic development professionals to use the
 2-43 strengths and assets of the agencies and professionals.

2-44 (b) The network shall work locally, regionally, and
 2-45 statewide with educators, agencies, organizations, networks,
 2-46 businesses, economic developers, consultants, communities,
 2-47 researchers, or other persons to develop and support strategies to
 2-48 assist entrepreneur participants and improve the environment for
 2-49 entrepreneurial development in this state.

2-50 Sec. 490.006. ENTREPRENEURSHIP SERVICES. (a) The network
 2-51 shall develop a statewide association of local individuals who are
 2-52 entrepreneurship developers trained to analyze, evaluate, and
 2-53 develop business plans and help local entrepreneur participants
 2-54 start, grow, or develop their businesses.

2-55 (b) The network may establish local entrepreneurship
 2-56 centers in every county practicable, at which an entrepreneur
 2-57 participant may access programs, necessary support, and online
 2-58 resources provided and developed by the network. In establishing
 2-59 the entrepreneurship centers, the network shall use existing
 2-60 infrastructure, public and private organizations, and other
 2-61 resources, including chambers of commerce, universities and
 2-62 community colleges, county extension offices, Texas Workforce
 2-63 Commission offices, and local business offices.

2-64 (c) The network shall adopt requirements for
 2-65 entrepreneurship centers. An organization must meet the
 2-66 requirements adopted under this subsection before hosting an
 2-67 entrepreneurship center.

2-68 (d) A group of individuals who have services, resources, or
 2-69 expertise to offer entrepreneur participants may agree to provide

3-1 services through the network as an entrepreneurship force.
 3-2 Sec. 490.007. NETWORK PROGRAMS. The network may develop:
 3-3 (1) programs for:
 3-4 (A) business plan development, competitive
 3-5 enhancement, and management skills development;
 3-6 (B) entrepreneurship best practices training;
 3-7 (C) entrepreneurship education in primary and
 3-8 secondary schools and community colleges;
 3-9 (D) expanding entrepreneurship in workforce
 3-10 development programs;
 3-11 (E) accessing sources of start-up and growth
 3-12 capital;
 3-13 (F) training and assisting entrepreneurship
 3-14 agents who facilitate and assist entrepreneurial efforts; and
 3-15 (G) community readiness preparation and
 3-16 evaluation, and community planning;
 3-17 (2) methods for helping entrepreneur participants
 3-18 access other loan, guarantee, and grant programs;
 3-19 (3) necessary policies and regulations; and
 3-20 (4) collaborations with other entities.

3-21 Sec. 490.008. TEXAS ENTREPRENEURSHIP NETWORK FUND.
 3-22 (a) The Texas Entrepreneurship Network fund is an account in the
 3-23 general revenue fund. The Department of Agriculture shall
 3-24 administer the fund.

3-25 (b) The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund:
 3-26 (1) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for
 3-27 the fund; and
 3-28 (2) gifts, grants, and other donations received for
 3-29 the fund.

3-30 (c) The fund may be used only for network purposes, subject
 3-31 to Section 490.009.

3-32 (d) The network may solicit and accept gifts and grants for
 3-33 the fund from public and private universities and all other public
 3-34 and private entities.

3-35 Sec. 490.009. USE OF FUND. Money appropriated to the fund
 3-36 by the legislature shall be used for:

3-37 (1) programs related to local entrepreneurship
 3-38 centers, training, and entrepreneurship developers;
 3-39 (2) curriculum development, infrastructure, data
 3-40 management, and research;
 3-41 (3) technology and economic development research
 3-42 centers of excellence;
 3-43 (4) the network's overhead expenses; and
 3-44 (5) other activities necessary to accomplish the
 3-45 mission of this chapter.

3-46 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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