

By: Strama

H.B. No. 516

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment and funding of a green job skills training program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 481.078, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (1) to read as follows:

(1) The fund may be used to make one or more grants to the Texas Workforce Commission to implement the commission's powers and duties relating to a green job skills training program. Subsections (e-1), (f), (g), (h), (i), and (j) do not apply to a grant under this subsection.

SECTION 2. Subtitle F, Title 4, Government Code, is amended by adding Chapter 490D to read as follows:

CHAPTER 490D. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND AND TRAINING

PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 490D.001. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to:

(1) promote green industry employment opportunities, including through the establishment of training programs to enhance green job skills;

(2) foster regional collaboration for the development of green industry employment opportunities;

(3) assist in the development of a highly skilled and productive workforce in the green industry; and

1 (4) assist workers with obtaining education, skills
2 training, and labor market information to enhance their
3 employability, earnings, and standard of living.

4 Sec. 490D.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

5 (1) "Commission" means the Texas Workforce
6 Commission.

7 (2) "Development fund" means the Texas green job
8 skills development fund.

9 (3) "Green job" means a job in the field of renewable
10 energy or energy efficiency, including a job relating to:

11 (A) energy-efficient building, construction, and
12 retrofitting;

13 (B) renewable electric power;

14 (C) biofuels;

15 (D) deconstruction and reuse of materials;

16 (E) energy efficiency assessments;

17 (F) manufacturing of sustainable products; and

18 (G) manufacturing using sustainable processes
19 and materials.

20 [Sections 490D.003-490D.020 reserved for expansion]

21 SUBCHAPTER B. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

22 Sec. 490D.021. TEXAS GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND.

23 (a) The Texas green job skills development fund is an account in
24 the general revenue fund. The account is composed of:

25 (1) legislative appropriations;

26 (2) money received from the Texas enterprise fund
27 under Section 481.078;

1 (3) gifts, grants, donations, and matching funds
2 received under Subsection (b); and

3 (4) other money required by law to be deposited in the
4 account.

5 (b) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants,
6 and donations of money from the federal government, local
7 governments, private corporations, or other persons to be used for
8 the purposes of this subchapter.

9 (c) Income from money in the account shall be credited to
10 the account.

11 (d) Money in the development fund may be used only for the
12 purposes of this chapter.

13 [Sections 490D.022-490D.030 reserved for expansion]

14 SUBCHAPTER C. GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT PROGRAM

15 Sec. 490D.031. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT
16 PROGRAM. The commission shall establish a green job skills grant
17 program, funded by the development fund under Section 490D.021,
18 through which the commission may award grants for the
19 implementation, expansion, and operation of green job skills
20 training programs.

21 Sec. 490D.032. GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. (a) A training
22 program funded through a grant awarded under this subchapter must:

23 (1) be hosted by a regional partnership that includes
24 at least:

25 (A) one university, college, or technical
26 school;

27 (B) one chamber of commerce, local workforce

1 agency, local employer, or other public or private participating
2 entity; and

3 (C) one economic development authority;

4 (2) assist an eligible individual in obtaining
5 education, skills training, and labor market information to enhance
6 the individual's employability in green industries; and

7 (3) assist in the development of a highly skilled and
8 productive workforce in green industries.

9 (b) A training program awarded a grant under this subchapter
10 shall target a population of eligible individuals for training that
11 includes:

12 (1) workers in high-demand green industries who are in
13 or preparing for high-wage occupations;

14 (2) workers in declining industries who may be
15 retrained for high-wage occupations in a high-demand green
16 industry;

17 (3) agriculture, timber, or energy sector workers who
18 may be retrained for high-wage occupations in a high-demand green
19 industry;

20 (4) veterans or past or present members of the armed
21 forces of the United States, including the state military forces,
22 or a reserve component of the armed forces or the national guard;

23 (5) unemployed workers; or

24 (6) individuals determined by the commission to be
25 disadvantaged and in need of training to obtain employment.

26 (c) A training program may receive funding under this
27 chapter for a period not to exceed three years.

1 Sec. 490D.033. APPLICATION. (a) A regional partnership,
2 as described by Section 490D.032, may apply for a grant under this
3 subchapter in the manner prescribed by the commission.

4 (b) The grant application must require the applicant to
5 provide to the commission the applicant's plan to continue to
6 operate the training program after the grant expires.

7 Sec. 490D.034. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING
8 GRANTS. In addition to the factors described by Sections 490D.032
9 and 490D.033, in determining whether to award a grant to an
10 applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall give
11 preference to a training program that provides certification to a
12 worker who receives green job skills training under the program.

13 Sec. 490D.035. STANDARDS. The commission by rule shall
14 adopt standards for a green job skills training program awarded a
15 grant under this subchapter.

16 SECTION 3. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules
17 for the program under Subchapter C, Chapter 490D, Government Code,
18 as added by this Act, not later than March 1, 2010.

19 SECTION 4. Implementation of the program under Subchapter
20 C, Chapter 490D, Government Code, as added by this Act, is
21 contingent on appropriation of funding by the legislature.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.