

By: Villarreal, Guillen, Rodriguez, Chavez,  
Flores, et al.

H.B. No. 1935

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of the Jobs and Education for Texans  
3 (JET) Grant Program to support adult and postsecondary education  
4 and workforce development.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 403, Government Code, is amended by  
7 adding Subchapter O to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER O. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT PROGRAM

9 Sec. 403.351. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

10 (1) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization  
11 exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal  
12 Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section  
13 501(c)(3) of that code.

14 (2) "Public junior college," "public state college,"  
15 and "public technical institute" have the meanings assigned by  
16 Section 61.003, Education Code.

17 Sec. 403.352. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) FUND. (a)  
18 The comptroller shall establish and administer the Jobs and  
19 Education for Texans (JET) fund as a dedicated account in the  
20 general revenue fund.

21 (b) The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund:

22 (1) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for  
23 the fund for purposes of this subchapter;

24 (2) interest earned on the investment of money in the

1 fund; and

2 (3) gifts, grants, and other donations received for  
3 the fund.

4 Sec. 403.353. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) An advisory board of  
5 education and workforce stakeholders is created to assist the  
6 comptroller in administering this subchapter.

7 (b) The advisory board is composed of seven members who  
8 serve two-year terms and are appointed as follows:

9 (1) one member appointed by the governor;

10 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

11 (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of  
12 representatives;

13 (4) one member appointed by the Texas Higher Education  
14 Coordinating Board;

15 (5) one member appointed by the Texas Workforce  
16 Commission;

17 (6) one member of the public appointed by the  
18 comptroller; and

19 (7) the comptroller, who serves as the presiding  
20 officer.

21 (c) The advisory board shall meet at least once each quarter  
22 to review received applications and recommend awarding grants under  
23 this subchapter.

24 Sec. 403.354. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT  
25 PROGRAM. The comptroller shall establish and administer the Jobs  
26 and Education for Texans (JET) grant program to provide grants to  
27 public junior colleges, public technical institutes, and eligible

1 nonprofit organizations that apply to the advisory board in the  
2 manner prescribed by the advisory board. The comptroller shall  
3 award the grants on the advice and recommendations of the advisory  
4 board. Grants may be awarded under this subchapter from the JET  
5 fund for the following purposes:

6 (1) to develop, support, or expand programs of  
7 nonprofit organizations that meet the requirements of Section  
8 403.355 and that prepare low-income students for careers in  
9 high-demand occupations;

10 (2) to defray the startup costs associated with the  
11 development of new career and technical education programs at  
12 public junior colleges and public technical institutes that meet  
13 the requirements of Section 403.356; and

14 (3) to provide scholarships for students in career and  
15 technical education programs who meet the requirements of Section  
16 403.357.

17 Sec. 403.355. GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
18 INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS. (a) The comptroller may award  
19 a grant to a nonprofit organization eligible under Subsection (b)  
20 for the development, support, or expansion of programs to prepare  
21 low-income students for careers in high-demand occupations.

22 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
23 nonprofit organization must:

24 (1) provide a program to offer assistance to  
25 low-income students in preparing for, applying to, and enrolling in  
26 a public junior college or public technical institute;

27 (2) be governed by a board or other governing

1 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based  
2 community organizations and members of the local business  
3 community;

4 (3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory  
5 board that the organization's program has achieved or will achieve  
6 the following measures of success among program participants, to  
7 the extent applicable to the type of program the organization  
8 provides:

9 (A) above average completion of developmental  
10 education among participating public junior college or public  
11 technical institute students;

12 (B) above average persistence rates among  
13 participating public junior college or public technical institute  
14 students;

15 (C) above average certificate or degree  
16 completion rates by participating students within a three-year  
17 period compared to demographically comparable public junior  
18 college and public technical institute students; and

19 (D) employment of participating students at an  
20 average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than the  
21 prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

22 (4) provide matching funds in accordance with rules  
23 adopted under Section 403.358.

24 (c) The matching funds required under Subsection (b)(4) may  
25 be obtained from any source available to the nonprofit  
26 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or  
27 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local

1 governmental agency operating funds.

2 (c-1) In determining which eligible nonprofit organizations  
3 should be awarded a grant under this section among two or more  
4 eligible nonprofit organizations offering similar programs, the  
5 comptroller shall give priority to any of those organizations that  
6 has an existing program in place to assist veterans.

7 (d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a  
8 manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into  
9 consideration.

10 Sec. 403.356. GRANTS TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR CAREER  
11 AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION PROGRAMS. (a) The comptroller may award a  
12 grant for the development of new career and technical education  
13 courses or programs at public junior colleges and public technical  
14 institutes.

15 (b) A grant received under this section may be used only:

16 (1) to support courses or programs that prepare  
17 students for career employment in occupations that are identified  
18 by local businesses as being in high demand;

19 (2) to finance initial costs of career and technical  
20 education course or program development, including the costs of  
21 constructing or renovating facilities, purchasing equipment, and  
22 other expenses associated with the development of a new course; and

23 (3) to finance a career and technical education course  
24 or program that leads to a license, certificate, or postsecondary  
25 degree.

26 (c) In awarding a grant under this section, the comptroller  
27 shall primarily consider the potential economic returns to the

1 state from the development of the career and technical education  
2 course or program. The comptroller may also consider whether the  
3 course or program:

4 (1) is part of a new, emerging industry or high-demand  
5 occupation;

6 (2) offers new or expanded dual credit career and  
7 technical educational opportunities in public high schools; or

8 (3) is provided in cooperation with other public  
9 junior colleges or public technical institutes across existing  
10 service areas.

11 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
12 public junior college or public technical institute must provide  
13 matching funds in accordance with rules adopted under Section  
14 403.358. The matching funds may be obtained from any source  
15 available to the college, including in-kind contributions,  
16 industry consortia, community or foundation grants, individual  
17 contributions, and local governmental agency operating funds.

18 Sec. 403.357. SCHOLARSHIPS. (a) The comptroller may award  
19 a scholarship to a public junior college or public technical  
20 institute student.

21 (b) To be eligible to receive a scholarship under this  
22 section, a student must:

23 (1) demonstrate financial need; and

24 (2) be enrolled in a training program for a  
25 high-demand occupation, as determined by the comptroller on the  
26 recommendation of the advisory board.

27 Sec. 403.358. RULES. The comptroller shall adopt rules as

1 necessary for the administration of this subchapter.

2 Sec. 403.359. STUDY. (a) The comptroller shall conduct a  
3 study of the feasibility of:

4 (1) basing a portion of all public postsecondary  
5 technical training program funding on the economic benefit of the  
6 program to the state; and

7 (2) for purposes of Subdivision (1), estimating the  
8 amount of any additional tax revenue generated by employers that  
9 results from the ability of public junior colleges, public state  
10 colleges, or public technical institutes to prepare students for  
11 employment fields for which there is employer demand.

12 (b) The comptroller shall begin the study not later than  
13 January 1, 2010. Not later than January 1, 2011, the comptroller  
14 shall make recommendations to the lieutenant governor and the  
15 speaker of the house of representatives for legislative action  
16 based on the results of the study.

17 (c) This section expires September 1, 2011.

18 SECTION 2. Grants provided through the Texas Adult Career  
19 Education Grant Program established under Section 403.351,  
20 Government Code, as added by this Act may only benefit a permanent  
21 legal resident or citizen of the United States.

22 SECTION 3. 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.