

By: Villarreal, Guillen, Rodriguez

H.B. No. 1935

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 1935:

By: Brown of Brazos

C.S.H.B. No. 1935

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment of the Texas Adult Career Education  
3 Grant Program to support community-based initiatives that assist  
4 unemployed and underemployed adults in receiving postsecondary  
5 education necessary to obtain employment in local, high-demand  
6 occupations.

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

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

10 SUBCHAPTER O. OTHER PROGRAMS ADMINISTERED BY COMPTROLLER

11 Sec. 403.351. TEXAS ADULT CAREER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

12 (a) In this section, "nonprofit organization" means an  
13 organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section  
14 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described  
15 by Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

16 (b) The comptroller shall establish and administer the  
17 Texas Adult Career Education Grant Program to provide grants to  
18 eligible nonprofit organizations that apply to the comptroller in  
19 the manner prescribed by the comptroller. The purpose of the  
20 program is to provide grants to enable eligible nonprofit  
21 organizations, in partnership with public junior colleges, to  
22 administer community-based initiatives that:

23 (1) are designed to provide unemployed and  
24 underemployed adults with the postsecondary education necessary to

1 obtain living-wage careers in high-demand occupations in the local  
2 community; and

3 (2) use methodologies proven to achieve measurable  
4 results in developing the skill sets of unemployed and  
5 underemployed adults to enable those persons and their families to  
6 achieve financial independence.

7 (c) To be eligible for a grant under this section, a  
8 nonprofit organization must:

9 (1) be governed by a board or other governing  
10 structure that includes recognized community leaders of  
11 broad-based community organizations and members of the local  
12 business community; and

13 (2) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the comptroller  
14 that the organization's programs have achieved the following  
15 measures of success among program participants to the extent  
16 applicable to the types of programs conducted or to be conducted by  
17 the organization:

18 (A) above average completion of developmental  
19 education among public junior college students;

20 (B) above average persistence rates among public  
21 junior college students;

22 (C) above average certificate or degree  
23 completion rates within a three-year period among first-time  
24 demographically comparable public junior college students;

25 (D) increased reading and mathematics  
26 performance;

27 (E) employment at an average full-time starting

1 wage that is:

2 (i) at least 50 percent of the local median  
3 household income; and

4 (ii) equal to or greater than the  
5 prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

6 (F) increased tax receipts and decreased  
7 reliance on public assistance as a result of employment  
8 opportunities created through program participation sufficient to  
9 offset the amount of public money used to finance the  
10 organization's programs.

11 (d) A grant received under this section may be used only:

12 (1) to support programs that:

13 (A) prepare unemployed or underemployed adults  
14 for career employment in private and public sector jobs that are  
15 identified by local businesses as being in high demand and that  
16 provide a living wage, health benefits, and opportunities for  
17 career advancement;

18 (B) assist unemployed or underemployed adults in  
19 earning transferable degree credits at public junior colleges;

20 (C) provide unemployed or underemployed adults  
21 with an educational path to the completion of a certificate or  
22 degree program at a public junior college that is based on each  
23 individual's academic need at the time of enrollment, including  
24 adult education, high school equivalency certificate preparation,  
25 literacy and English as a second language classes, developmental  
26 education, and transferable degree credit course work; and

27 (D) provide unemployed or underemployed adults

1 with child care, counseling, case management, mentoring,  
2 transportation, emergency assistance, financial assistance toward  
3 the cost of tuition, fees, and books, and other assistance; and

4 (2) as state matching funds used to match local public  
5 or private funding to support programs described by Subdivision  
6 (1).

7 (e) From grant money received by a nonprofit organization  
8 under this section, the organization may not spend more than \$3,000  
9 in a calendar year on a single individual receiving assistance  
10 under a program described by Subsection (d)(1).

11 (f) The comptroller shall adopt rules for the  
12 administration of this section.

13 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
14 of this Act, the comptroller of public accounts shall adopt rules  
15 for the administration of the Texas Adult Career Education Grant  
16 Program under Section 403.351, Government Code, as added by this  
17 Act.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.