

By: Villarreal

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. Subchapter C, Chapter 61, Education Code, is
9 amended by adding Section 61.0905 to read as follows:

10 Sec. 61.0905. TEXAS ADULT CAREER EDUCATION GRANT PROGRAM.

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

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

22 (1) are designed to provide unemployed and
23 underemployed adults with the postsecondary education necessary to
24 obtain living-wage careers in high-demand occupations in the local

1 community; and

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

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

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

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

16 (A) above average completion of developmental
17 education among public junior college students;

18 (B) above average persistence rates among public
19 junior college students;

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

23 (D) increased reading and mathematics
24 performance;

25 (E) employment at an average full-time starting
26 wage that is:

27 (i) at least 50 percent of the local median

1 household income; and

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

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

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

10 (1) to support programs that:

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

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

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

25 (D) provide unemployed or underemployed adults
26 with child care, counseling, case management, mentoring,
27 transportation, emergency assistance, financial assistance toward

1 the cost of tuition, fees, and books, and other assistance; and
2 (2) as state matching funds used to match local public
3 or private funding to support programs described by Subdivision
4 (1).

5 (e) The board shall adopt rules for the administration of
6 this section.

7 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
8 of this Act, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
9 adopt rules for the administration of the Texas Adult Career
10 Education Grant Program under Section 61.0905, Education Code, as
11 added by this Act.

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