

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. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 303A to read as follows:

CHAPTER 303A. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND AND TRAINING PROGRAM

SUBCHAPTER A. GENERAL PROVISIONS

Sec. 303A.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 and create career opportunities that result in high-wage jobs;

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

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

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

Sec. 303A.002. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Development fund" means the Texas green job skills development fund.

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

3 (A) energy-efficient building, construction, and
4 retrofitting;

5 (B) renewable energy, including biomass,
6 hydroelectric, geothermal, and ocean energy, and wind and solar
7 power;

8 (C) research and development or manufacturing of
9 advanced battery or energy storage technologies;

10 (D) biofuels from non-feed food stocks;

11 (E) techniques to reduce, reuse, or recycle
12 waste;

13 (F) techniques to recycle products and convert
14 used materials into new products;

15 (G) energy efficiency assessments;

16 (H) manufacturing of sustainable products using
17 sustainable processes and materials; and

18 (I) water conservation and water efficiency.

19 (3) "Recycle" means the process of extracting
20 resources or value from waste by recovering or reusing the
21 material, including the collection and reuse of everyday waste
22 materials.

23 [Sections 303A.003-303A.020 reserved for expansion]

24 SUBCHAPTER B. GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND

25 Sec. 303A.021. TEXAS GREEN JOB SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND.

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

- 1 (1) legislative appropriations;
2 (2) gifts, grants, donations, and matching funds
3 received under Subsection (b); and
4 (3) other money required by law to be deposited in the
5 account.

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

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

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

14 [Sections 303A.022-303A.030 reserved for expansion]

15 SUBCHAPTER C. GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT PROGRAM

16 Sec. 303A.031. ESTABLISHMENT OF GREEN JOB SKILLS GRANT
17 PROGRAM. The commission shall establish a green job skills grant
18 program, funded by the development fund under Section 303A.021,
19 through which the commission may award grants for the
20 implementation, expansion, and operation of green job skills
21 training programs.

22 Sec. 303A.032. GRANT PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS. (a) A
23 training program funded through a grant awarded under this
24 subchapter must:

- 25 (1) be hosted by a regional partnership that presents
26 a plan to implement training programs that lead trainees to
27 economic self-sufficiency and career pathways and includes at

1 least:

2 (A) one university, college, technical school,
3 or other nonprofit workforce training provider;

4 (B) one chamber of commerce, local workforce
5 agency, local employer, or other public or private participating
6 entity;

7 (C) one economic development authority; and

8 (D) one community or faith-based nonprofit
9 organization that works with one or more targeted populations;

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

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

15 (b) A training program awarded a grant under this subchapter
16 shall target a population of eligible individuals for training that
17 includes:

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

20 (2) workers in declining industries who may be
21 retrained for high-wage occupations in a high-demand green
22 industry;

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

26 (4) veterans or past or present members of the armed
27 forces of the United States, including the state military forces,

1 or a reserve component of the armed forces or the national guard;

2 (5) unemployed workers;

3 (6) low-income workers, unemployed youth and adults,
4 individuals who did not complete high school, or other underserved
5 sectors of the workforce in high poverty areas; or

6 (7) individuals otherwise determined by the
7 commission to be disadvantaged and in need of training to obtain
8 employment.

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

11 (d) A training program may use grant funds for support
12 services, including basic skills, literacy, GED, English as a
13 second language, and job readiness training, career guidance, and
14 referral services.

15 (e) A percentage of the grant, to be determined by the
16 commission, must be devoted to administrative costs, costs related
17 to hiring instructors and purchasing equipment, and tuition
18 assistance.

19 Sec. 303A.033. APPLICATION. (a) A regional partnership,
20 as described by Section 303A.032, may apply for a grant under this
21 subchapter in the manner prescribed by the commission.

22 (b) The grant application must require the applicant to
23 provide to the commission the applicant's plan to continue to
24 operate the training program after the grant expires.

25 Sec. 303A.034. ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN AWARDING
26 GRANTS. (a) In addition to the factors described by Sections
27 303A.032 and 303A.033, in determining whether to award a grant to an

1 applicant under this subchapter, the commission shall give
2 preference to a training program that:

3 (1) provides certification and a career advancement
4 mechanism to a worker who receives green job skills training under
5 the program; and

6 (2) leverages additional public and private resources
7 to fund the program, including cash or in-kind matches.

8 (b) Grants shall be awarded in a manner that ensures
9 geographic diversity.

10 Sec. 303A.035. RESERVATION FOR CERTAIN PROGRAMS. Twenty
11 percent of the funds available for grant programs under this
12 chapter must be reserved for job skills training programs that
13 serve the unemployed and individuals whose incomes are at or below
14 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

15 Sec. 303A.036. REPORT. (a) Not later than the 30th day
16 after the date funding for a grant under this chapter ends, the
17 grant recipient shall submit a report to the commission that
18 contains the following information:

19 (1) the number of participants who entered the
20 program;

21 (2) the demographics of the participants, including
22 race, gender, age, and significant barriers to education such as
23 limited English proficiency, a criminal record, or a physical or
24 mental disability;

25 (3) services received by participants, including
26 training, education, and support services;

27 (4) the amount of program spending per participant;

1 (5) program completion rates;

2 (6) factors determined to interfere significantly
3 with program participation or completion;

4 (7) the average wage at placement, including benefits,
5 and the rate of average wage increases after one year; and

6 (8) any post-employment support services provided.

7 (b) Not later than October 1 of each even-numbered year, the
8 commission shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant
9 governor, and the speaker of the house of representatives that
10 includes a summary of all information submitted under Subsection
11 (a).

12 Sec. 303A.037. STANDARDS. The commission by rule shall
13 adopt standards for a green job skills training program awarded a
14 grant under this subchapter.

15 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules
16 for the program under Chapter 303A, Labor Code, as added by this
17 Act, not later than March 1, 2010.

18 SECTION 3. This Act does not make an appropriation. This
19 Act takes effect only if a specific appropriation for the
20 implementation of the Act is provided in a general appropriations
21 act of the 81st Legislature.

22 SECTION 4. Except as provided by Section 3 of this Act, this
23 Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of
24 all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39,
25 Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the
26 vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect
27 September 1, 2009, except as provided by Section 3 of this Act.