

By: Workman

H.B. No. 1370

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to establishment of the Texas Construction Academy as a
3 residential construction training and high school center for
4 certain public high school students and high school graduates.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 29, Education Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 29.191 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 29.191. TEXAS CONSTRUCTION ACADEMY. (a) The agency
9 shall establish the Texas Construction Academy as a residential
10 training center for high school juniors and seniors who are
11 interested in a career in the construction industry.

12 (b) The academy must offer:

13 (1) a residential program for high school juniors and
14 seniors;

15 (2) the high school curriculum necessary for high
16 school juniors and seniors to graduate from the academy with a high
17 school diploma;

18 (3) to the greatest extent practicable, training in
19 all areas of civil, commercial, residential, and industrial
20 construction, including training in the following specific areas:

21 (A) installing:

22 (i) electrical systems;

23 (ii) heating, ventilating, and air
24 conditioning systems;

1 (iii) plumbing systems; and
2 (iv) drywall;
3 (B) framing;
4 (C) performing concrete work;
5 (D) painting and applying other wall or exterior
6 building finishes;
7 (E) roofing;
8 (F) welding;
9 (G) pipefitting;
10 (H) operating heavy equipment;
11 (I) surveying;
12 (J) estimating the costs of materials and
13 projects;
14 (K) managing construction projects, including
15 scheduling projects and providing project leadership; and
16 (L) ensuring a safe work environment; and
17 (4) counseling concerning educational and career
18 training opportunities available to students after high school
19 graduation.
20 (c) To the greatest extent practicable, training under
21 Subsection (b) must be provided by requiring students to perform
22 construction activities.
23 (d) A student who resides anywhere in this state may apply
24 for admission to the academy for all or part of a student's junior
25 or senior year of high school. The commissioner shall by rule adopt
26 a form and procedure for applying for admission to the academy and
27 criteria for admission.

1 (e) The commissioner shall determine the location of the
2 academy based on the need in an area of this state for the type of
3 educational environment and program to be provided by the academy
4 and the cost of locating the academy in a particular area. In
5 making that determination, the commissioner shall include
6 consideration of:

7 (1) the appropriateness of various rural areas of this
8 state as a location for the academy; and

9 (2) the availability for use by the academy of a
10 facility of a school district or institution of higher education or
11 a facility donated by an appropriate private entity.

12 (f) The agency shall post on the agency's Internet website
13 information concerning the academy, including information
14 concerning the location of the academy, the program offered,
15 eligibility requirements for admission, and application forms and
16 deadlines.

17 (g) The agency shall solicit and may accept for use by the
18 academy donations of material, equipment, or facilities from a
19 public or appropriate private entity.

20 (h) During a period when regular academy classes are in
21 recess, the academy may enroll high school graduates, especially
22 recent high school graduates, in academy courses developed for that
23 purpose. The academy may charge reasonable tuition and fees as
24 established by commissioner rule to a high school graduate who
25 enrolls in an academy course.

26 (i) In addition to rules specifically required to be adopted
27 by this section, the commissioner shall adopt any other rules

1 necessary for the administration of this section.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2011.