

By: Clardy, Isaac, Branch

H.B. No. 3662

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 3662:

By: Rodriguez of Travis

C.S.H.B. No. 3662

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program;  
3 authorizing a fee.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter Z, Chapter 29, Education Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 29.922 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 29.922. TEXAS WORKFORCE INNOVATION NEEDS PROGRAM. (a)  
8 In this section:

9 (1) "Private or independent institution of higher  
10 education" has the meaning assigned by Section 61.003.

11 (2) "Program" means the Texas Workforce Innovation  
12 Needs Program.

13 (b) The Texas Workforce Innovation Needs Program is  
14 established to:

15 (1) provide selected school districts, public  
16 institutions of higher education, and private or independent  
17 institutions of higher education with the opportunity to establish  
18 innovative programs designed to prepare students for careers for  
19 which there is demand in this state; and

20 (2) use the results of those programs to inform the  
21 governor, legislature, and commissioner concerning methods for  
22 transforming public education and higher education in this state by  
23 improving student learning and career preparedness.

24 (c) To apply to participate in the program, a school

1 district, public institution of higher education, or private or  
2 independent institution of higher education must use the form and  
3 apply in the time and manner established by commissioner rule. The  
4 application process must require each applicant district or  
5 institution of higher education to submit a detailed plan as  
6 required by Subsections (d) and (e) of the instruction and  
7 accountability the applicant would provide under the program.

8 (d) A plan submitted under Subsection (c):

9 (1) must:

10 (A) be designed to support improved instruction  
11 of and learning by students and provide evidence of the accurate  
12 assessment of the quality of learning on campus;

13 (B) describe any waiver of an applicable  
14 prohibition, requirement, or restriction for which the district or  
15 institution of higher education intends to apply; and

16 (C) include any other information required by  
17 commissioner rule; and

18 (2) may, if submitted by a school district, designate  
19 one or more campuses rather than the entire district to participate  
20 in the program.

21 (e) In addition to satisfying the requirements under  
22 Subsection (d)(1), a plan submitted under Subsection (c) must, to  
23 the greatest extent appropriate for the grade or higher education  
24 levels served under the program, either:

25 (1) focus on engagement of students in  
26 competency-based learning as necessary to earn postsecondary  
27 credentials, including:

1           (A) career and technical certificates;

2           (B) associate's degrees;

3           (C) bachelor's degrees; and

4           (D) graduate degrees; or

5           (2) incorporate career and technical courses into dual  
6 enrollment courses or into the early college education program  
7 under Section 29.908 to provide students the opportunity to earn a  
8 career or technical certificate or associate's degree.

9           (f) From among the school districts and institutions of  
10 higher education that apply as required under this section, the  
11 commissioner shall select those school districts and institutions  
12 of higher education that present the plans that are most likely to  
13 be effective in producing the next generation of higher performing  
14 public schools and institutions of higher education that provide  
15 education and training in an innovative form and manner to prepare  
16 students for careers for which there is demand in this state.

17           (g) The commissioner shall convene program leaders  
18 periodically to discuss methods to transform learning  
19 opportunities for all students, build cross-institution support  
20 systems and training, and share best practices tools and processes.

21           (h) A school district or institution of higher education  
22 participating in the program or the commissioner may, for purposes  
23 of this section, accept gifts, grants, or donations from any  
24 source, including a private or governmental entity.

25           (i) To cover the costs of administering the program, the  
26 commissioner may charge a fee to a school district or institution of  
27 higher education participating in the program.

1       (j) In consultation with interested school districts,  
2 institutions of higher education, and other appropriate interested  
3 persons, the commissioner shall adopt rules as necessary for  
4 purposes of this section.

5       (k) Not later than December 1, 2014, and not later than  
6 December 1, 2016, with the assistance of school districts and  
7 institutions of higher education participating in the program, the  
8 commissioner shall submit to the governor and the legislature  
9 reports concerning the performance and progress of the program  
10 participants. The report submitted not later than December 1,  
11 2014, must include any recommendation by the commissioner  
12 concerning legislative authorization necessary for the  
13 commissioner to waive a prohibition, requirement, or restriction  
14 that applies to a program participant and other school district or  
15 institution of higher education interested in beginning a similar  
16 program. To prepare for implementation of a commissioner waiver,  
17 the commissioner shall seek any necessary federal waiver. This  
18 subsection expires January 1, 2020.

19       SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
20 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
21 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
22 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
23 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.