

By: Anchia

H.B. No. 3856

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to building workforce skills to compete for trade-related  
3 jobs, business opportunities and investment.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 61.022, Education Code, is amended to  
6 read as follows:

7 Sec.61.022(a). The board shall consist of nine members  
8 appointed by the governor so as to provide representation from all  
9 areas of the state with the advice and consent of the senate, and as  
10 the constitution provides. Members of the board serve staggered  
11 six-year terms. The terms of one-third of the members expire August  
12 31 of each odd-numbered year.

13 (b) A board member may not be employed professionally for  
14 remuneration in the field of education during the member's term of  
15 office.

16 (c) One board member shall have over ten years of experience  
17 in a multinational corporation, export business, international  
18 investment business, or senior management position an  
19 international transportation, logistics, export or trade industry,  
20 or have occupied an executive role in a trade related government  
21 agency of the federal government or the state.

22 SECTION 2. Section 301.001, Labor Code, is amended to read  
23 as follows:

24 Sec. 301.001. PURPOSE; AGENCY GOALS; DEFINITIONS. (a) The

1 Texas Workforce Commission is a state agency established to operate  
2 an integrated workforce development system in this state, in  
3 particular through the consolidation of job training, employment,  
4 and employment-related educational programs available in this  
5 state, and to administer the unemployment compensation insurance  
6 program in this state.

7 (b) The commission shall meet the needs of:

8 (1) the businesses of this state for the development  
9 of a highly skilled and productive workforce;

10 (2) the workers of this state for education, skills  
11 training, and labor market information to enhance their  
12 employability, earnings, and standard of living and for an  
13 efficient unemployment compensation system;

14 (3) the people of this state who are making a  
15 transition into the workforce, particularly persons receiving  
16 public assistance, displaced homemakers, and students making the  
17 transition from school to work;

18 (4) the communities of this state to provide economic  
19 incentive programs for job creation, attraction, and expansion; and

20 (5) the taxpayers of this state to ensure that tax  
21 revenues for workforce development are spent efficiently and  
22 effectively.

23 (c) Current funding allocations to commission programs  
24 shall be subject to annual review to ensure they are responsive to  
25 the workforce demands of the marketplace, including emerging  
26 markets for value-added services and products, particularly those  
27 trades and professions related to international exports, foreign

1 direct investment, trade-related transportation and logistics, and  
2 allied professions.

3 SECTION 3. Section 301.002, Labor Code, is amended to read  
4 as follows:

5 Sec. 301.002(a). The commission is composed of three  
6 members:

- 7 (1) one member who is a representative of labor;  
8 (2) one member who is a representative of employers;  
9 and  
10 (3) one member who is a representative of the public.

11 (b) The governor shall appoint the members and make the  
12 appointments without regard to the race, color, disability, sex,  
13 religion, age, or national origin of the appointees.

14 (c) The member who is a representative of employers shall  
15 have over ten years of experience in a multinational corporation,  
16 export business, international investment business, or senior  
17 management position an international transportation, logistics,  
18 export or trade industry, or have occupied an executive role in a  
19 trade related government agency of the federal government or the  
20 state.

21 SECTION 4. Section 301.041, Labor Code, is amended to read as  
22 follows:

23 Sec. 301.041. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR; AGENCY PERSONNEL. (a)  
24 The commission shall appoint an executive director to administer  
25 the daily operations of the commission in compliance with federal  
26 law.

27 (b) A reference in this code or another law to the "agency

1 administrator" of the commission means the executive director.

2 (c) The executive director may:

3 (1) appoint and prescribe the powers and duties of all  
4 commission staff, including officers, accountants, attorneys,  
5 experts, and other persons as necessary in the performance of the  
6 commission's duties;

7 (2) delegate authority to a person appointed under  
8 this section as the executive director considers reasonable and  
9 proper for the effective administration of this title;

10 (3) employ and terminate the employment of commission  
11 staff members; and

12 (4) bond any person that handles money or signs checks  
13 under this title.

14 (d) The executive director or a person designated by the  
15 executive director shall develop a system of annual performance  
16 evaluations based on measurable job tasks. All merit pay for  
17 commission employees must be based on the system established under  
18 this subsection.

19 (e) The member who is a representative of employers shall  
20 have over ten years of experience in a multinational corporation,  
21 export business, international investment business, or senior  
22 management position an international transportation, logistics,  
23 export or trade industry, or have occupied an executive role in a  
24 trade related government agency of the federal government or the  
25 state.

26 SECTION 4. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is  
27 amended by adding section 302.018 to read as follows:

1       Section 302.018. TEXAS GLOBAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT TASK  
2 FORCE. (a) In this section, "task force" means the Texas Global  
3 Workforce Development Task Force.

4       (b) An interagency task force is created to:

5           (1) develop or update a process to allow agencies to  
6 work together to identify the key emerging global markets for Texas  
7 manufactured goods, intellectual property, artisanal and craft  
8 industries, and other Texas products, and for potential new foreign  
9 direct investment in Texas educational, research and development,  
10 high-technology, energy and environmental, biopharmaceutical,  
11 logistics and transportation, tourism and recreational, and Texas'  
12 other priority industry sectors; and formulate a strategy to be  
13 entitled the "Texas Global Workforce Strategy;"

14           (2) consult with local governments, educational  
15 institutions, economic development and metropolitan planning  
16 organizations, workforce development agencies, small business  
17 agencies, chambers of commerce, trade associations, and other  
18 stakeholders, to elicit recommendations on a statewide strategy for  
19 training a new generation of Texas workers and small business  
20 owners to compete for jobs in Texas' export-related industries; and

21           (3) develop regulatory and legislative  
22 recommendations to eliminate duplication and combine program  
23 services.

24       (c) The task force is composed of the heads of the following  
25 agencies or their designees, and other state and local entities to  
26 be designated as necessary or appropriate:

27           (1) the Texas Department of Rural Affairs;

- 1           (2) the Texas Department of Transportation;
- 2           (3) the Texas Workforce Commission;
- 3           (4) the General Land Office;
- 4           (5) the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office;
- 5           (6) the Office of State-Federal Relations;
- 6           (7) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;
- 7           (8) the secretary of state's office; and
- 8           (9) the Railroad Commission of Texas.

9           (d) The task force shall meet at least once quarterly in  
10 Austin to report on results of their studies, to invite successful  
11 international businesses to share insight into their workforce  
12 development needs, to conduct public consultations on key workforce  
13 development challenges and opportunities, and to showcase best  
14 practices and case studies from other states, provinces and  
15 nations.

16           (e) The task force will also invite experts from government  
17 and academia to report on illicit forms of trade-related  
18 employment, including human trafficking and narcotics trade.

19           (f) No later than December 31, 2014, the Task Force shall  
20 publish its findings and strategic recommendations, including  
21 selected case studies from other nations, and a strategic plan to  
22 boost jobs related to exports and foreign direct investment by 20%  
23 by the year 2025; and

24           (g) In fulfilling its duties, the task force shall consider  
25 opportunities to collaborate with the federal government,  
26 including trade promotion and finance programs of the U.S.  
27 Department of Commerce, U.S. Department of Agriculture and other

1 federal government departments, and the effect of federal policies,  
2 including trade agreements, upon Texas' business opportunities in  
3 the global marketplace.

4 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.