

By: Alvarado, Gonzales, Button,
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H.B. No. 1155

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of the Recruit Texas Program to facilitate
3 the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering
4 complex or high-skilled employment opportunities.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by
7 adding Chapter 316 to read as follows:

8 CHAPTER 316. RECRUIT TEXAS PROGRAM

9 Sec. 316.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

10 (1) "Program" means the Recruit Texas Program
11 established under this chapter.

12 (2) "Public junior college" and "public technical
13 institute" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003, Education
14 Code.

15 Sec. 316.002. RECRUIT TEXAS PROGRAM. (a) The Recruit Texas
16 Program is established within the commission.

17 (b) The purpose of the program is to provide an intensive
18 and rapid response to, and support services for, employers
19 expanding in or relocating their operations to this state, with a
20 focus on recruiting employers who will provide complex or
21 high-skilled employment opportunities in this state.

22 (c) Under the program, the commission shall provide
23 leadership and direction to, and linkage among, out-of-state
24 employers, economic development organizations, local workforce

1 development boards, public junior colleges, and public technical
2 institutes to address the employers' needs for recruitment and
3 hiring for complex or high-skilled employment positions as
4 necessary to facilitate employers' relocation to or expansion of
5 operations in this state.

6 Sec. 316.003. GRANTS. (a) Under the program, the commission
7 may award grants to a public junior college or public technical
8 institute to assist the college or institute to develop:

9 (1) customize training programs specific business
10 needs;

11 (2) fast track curriculum development;

12 (3) instructor certification necessary to provide
13 workforce training;

14 (4) funding for training equipment that leads to
15 certification and employment; and

16 (5) other related support services to employers who
17 commit to establishing a place of business in this state.

18 (b) The executive director, or a person appointed by the
19 executive director who is knowledgeable in the administration of
20 grants, is responsible for the distribution of grant money under
21 the program.

22 Sec. 316.004. FUNDING; USE OF FUNDS. (a) The commission,
23 for the purposes of this section, may use:

24 (1) money appropriated to the commission; and

25 (2) money from other appropriate, statutorily
26 authorized funding sources, including the JET program.

27 (b) The commission may commit money under the program to an

1 out-of-state employer contingent on the employer's establishment
2 or expansion of business operations in this state.

3 (c) Under the program, money may not be used to pay any
4 training costs or other related costs of an employer to relocate the
5 employer's worksite from one location in this state to another
6 location in this state.

7 Sec. 316.005. RULES. The commission may adopt rules as
8 necessary to implement this chapter.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.