

By: Burkett, Price, Raymond, Dutton,
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H.B. No. 1606

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce
Investment Council, including assumption of the duties of the Texas
Skill Standards Board.

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

SECTION 1. Section 2308.005, Government Code, is amended to
read as follows:

Sec. 2308.005. APPLICATION OF SUNSET ACT. The Texas
Workforce Investment Council is subject to Chapter 325 (Texas
Sunset Act). Unless continued in existence as provided by that
chapter, the council is abolished September 1, 2027 [~~2015~~]. The
council shall be reviewed during the period in which the Texas
Workforce Commission is reviewed.

SECTION 2. Subchapter C, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is
amended by adding Section 2308.109 to read as follows:

Sec. 2308.109. DUTY TO DEVELOP SKILL STANDARDS. (a) The
council shall provide advice to the governor and the legislature on
the development of a statewide system of industry-defined and
industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major
skilled occupations that:

(1) provide strong employment and earnings
opportunities in this state; and

(2) require less than a baccalaureate degree.

(b) The council shall:

1 (1) validate and recognize nationally established
2 skill standards to guide curriculum development, training,
3 assessment, and certification of workforce skills;

4 (2) convene industry groups to develop skill standards
5 and certification procedures for industries and occupations in
6 which standards have not been established or adopted and recognize
7 the skill standards and certification procedures;

8 (3) review the standards developed by other states and
9 foreign countries and enter into agreements for mutual recognition
10 of standards and credentials to enhance portability of skills; and

11 (4) promote the use of standards and credentials among
12 employers.

13 (c) The council shall:

14 (1) report on the council's duties under this section
15 to the governor; and

16 (2) provide annual reports on the council's duties
17 under this section to the governor, the division, and the
18 legislature.

19 SECTION 3. Subchapter H, Chapter 2308, Government Code, is
20 repealed.

21 SECTION 4. The Texas Skill Standards Board is abolished.
22 All powers and duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board are
23 transferred to the Texas Workforce Investment Council.

24 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.