

By: Hinojosa  
(Zerwas)

S.B. No. 1351

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to transferring to the Texas Workforce Commission certain duties of the comptroller related to the Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 134.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1) to read as follows:

(1) "Commission" means the Texas Workforce Commission.

SECTION 2. Section 134.002(a), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) The commission [~~comptroller~~] shall establish and administer the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) fund as a dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

SECTION 3. Section 134.003, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 134.003. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) An advisory board of education and workforce stakeholders is created to assist the commission [~~comptroller~~] in administering this chapter.

(b) The advisory board is composed of six [~~seven~~] members who serve two-year terms and are appointed as follows:

- (1) one member appointed by the governor;
- (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- (3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of

1 representatives;

2 (4) one member appointed by the Texas Higher Education  
3 Coordinating Board;

4 (5) one member appointed by the commission [~~Texas~~  
5 ~~Workforce Commission~~]; and

6 (6) the chair of the commission [~~one member of the~~  
7 ~~public appointed by the comptroller, and~~

8 [~~(7) the comptroller~~], who serves as the presiding  
9 officer.

10 (c) The advisory board shall meet at least once each  
11 quarter, or as needed, to review received applications and  
12 recommend awarding grants under this chapter.

13 SECTION 4. Section 134.004(a), Education Code, is amended  
14 to read as follows:

15 (a) The commission [~~comptroller~~] shall establish and  
16 administer the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to  
17 provide grants to public junior colleges and public technical  
18 institutes that apply to the advisory board in the manner  
19 prescribed by the advisory board. The commission [~~comptroller~~]  
20 shall award the grants on the advice and recommendations of the  
21 advisory board.

22 SECTION 5. Sections 134.006(a), (c), and (d), Education  
23 Code, are amended to read as follows:

24 (a) The commission [~~comptroller~~] may award a grant for the  
25 development of new career and technical education courses or  
26 programs at public junior colleges and public technical institutes.

27 (c) In awarding a grant under this section, the commission

1 ~~[comptroller]~~ shall primarily consider the potential economic  
2 returns to the state from the development of the career and  
3 technical education course or program. The commission  
4 ~~[comptroller]~~ may also consider whether the course or program:

5 (1) is part of a new, emerging industry or high-demand  
6 occupation;

7 (2) offers new or expanded dual credit career and  
8 technical educational opportunities in public high schools; or

9 (3) is provided in cooperation with other public  
10 junior colleges or public technical institutes across existing  
11 service areas.

12 (d) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
13 public junior college or public technical institute must provide  
14 matching funds in accordance with rules adopted under Section  
15 134.008. The matching funds may be obtained from any source  
16 available to the junior college or technical institute, including  
17 ~~[in-kind contributions,]~~ industry consortia, community or  
18 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local  
19 governmental agency operating funds.

20 SECTION 6. Section 134.008, Education Code, is amended to  
21 read as follows:

22 Sec. 134.008. RULES. The commission ~~[comptroller]~~ shall  
23 adopt rules as necessary for the administration of this chapter.

24 SECTION 7. (a) Not later than September 1, 2015:

25 (1) the administration of the Jobs and Education for  
26 Texans Grant Program shall be transferred from the comptroller of  
27 public accounts to the Texas Workforce Commission;

1           (2) all rules, forms, policies, procedures, or  
2 decisions of the comptroller that are related to the Jobs and  
3 Education for Texans Grant Program are continued in effect as  
4 rules, forms, policies, procedures, or decisions of the Texas  
5 Workforce Commission until superseded by a rule or other  
6 appropriate act of the Texas Workforce Commission;

7           (3) all money, obligations, memoranda of  
8 understanding, leases, rights, and contracts, including grant  
9 agreements, of the comptroller related to the Jobs and Education  
10 for Texans Grant Program are transferred to the Texas Workforce  
11 Commission, and the Texas Workforce Commission assumes, without a  
12 change in status, the position of the comptroller in all  
13 transferred contracts, including grant agreements, related to the  
14 Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program;

15           (4) records in the custody of the comptroller related  
16 to the Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program are transferred  
17 to and become the property of the Texas Workforce Commission; and

18           (5) a reference in law or administrative rule to the  
19 comptroller relating to the administration of the Jobs and  
20 Education for Texans Grant Program means the Texas Workforce  
21 Commission.

22           (b) Before the transfer of the administration of the Jobs  
23 and Education for Texans Grant Program, the comptroller of public  
24 accounts and the Texas Workforce Commission shall coordinate the  
25 transfer of powers and duties, including records, appropriations,  
26 disbursements, compliance audits, monitoring and enforcement, and  
27 other items, to ensure a smooth transition.

1           SECTION 8. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
2 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
3 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
4 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
5 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.