

By: Alvarado, Button, Bernal, Paddie,
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H.B. No. 108

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the use of the skills development fund to facilitate the
3 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. Chapter 303, Labor Code, is amended by adding
7 Section 303.0031 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 303.0031. USE OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND TO RECRUIT
9 CERTAIN EMPLOYERS. (a) In this section, "public junior college"
10 and "public technical institute" have the meanings assigned by
11 Section 61.003, Education Code.

12 (b) In addition to the purposes described by Section
13 303.001, the commission may use the skills development fund to
14 provide an intensive and rapid response to, and support services
15 for, employers expanding in or relocating their operations to this
16 state, with a focus on recruiting employers who will provide
17 complex or high-skilled employment opportunities in this state.

18 (c) The commission may use funds available for the purpose
19 of this section to:

20 (1) provide leadership and direction to, and linkage
21 among, out-of-state employers, economic development organizations,
22 local workforce development boards, public junior colleges, and
23 public technical institutes to address the employers' needs for
24 recruitment and hiring for complex or high-skilled employment

1 positions as necessary to facilitate employers' relocation to or
2 expansion of operations in this state; and

3 (2) award grants to a public junior college or public
4 technical institute providing workforce training and related
5 support services to employers who commit to establishing a place of
6 business in this state.

7 (d) A grant awarded under this section may be used only for:

8 (1) developing:

9 (A) customized workforce training programs for
10 an employer's specific business needs;

11 (B) fast-track curriculum;

12 (C) workforce training-related support services
13 for employers; or

14 (D) instructor certification necessary to
15 provide workforce training; and

16 (2) acquiring training equipment necessary for
17 instructor certification and employment.

18 (e) 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 this section.

22 (f) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
23 donations from any public or private source for the purpose of this
24 section.

25 (g) The commission may require, as a condition of receiving
26 money under this section, that a recipient agree to repay the amount
27 received and any related interest if the commission determines that

1 the money was not used for the purposes for which the money was
2 awarded.

3 (h) Money may not be used under this section 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 (i) The commission may adopt rules as necessary to implement
8 this section.

9 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.