

AN ACT

relating to the use of the skills development fund to facilitate the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering complex or high-skilled employment opportunities.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 303, Labor Code, is amended by adding Section 303.0031 to read as follows:

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

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

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

(1) provide leadership and direction to, and linkage among, out-of-state employers, economic development organizations, local workforce development boards, public junior colleges, and public technical institutes to address the employers' needs for 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.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 108 was passed by the House on May 11, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 115, Nays 30, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 108 was passed by the Senate on May 23, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor