

By: Alvarado

H.B. No. 108

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Recruit Texas Program 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. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 316 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 316. RECRUIT TEXAS PROGRAM

Sec. 316.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

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

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

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

(b) The purpose of the program is 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) Under the program, the commission shall provide leadership and direction to, and linkage among, out-of-state 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
7 commission may award grants to a public junior college or public
8 technical institute providing workforce training and related
9 support services to employers who commit to establishing a place of
10 business in this state. The grants may be used for:

11 (1) developing:

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

14 (B) fast-track curriculum;

15 (C) workforce training-related support services
16 for employers; or

17 (D) instructor certification necessary to
18 provide workforce training; and

19 (2) acquiring training equipment necessary for
20 instructor certification and employment.

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

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

27 (1) money appropriated to the commission; and

1 (2) money from other appropriate, statutorily
2 authorized funding sources, including the Jobs and Education for
3 Texans (JET) Grant Program under Chapter 134, Education Code.

4 (b) The commission may commit money under the program to an
5 out-of-state employer contingent on the employer's establishment
6 or expansion of business operations in this state.

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

11 Sec. 316.005. RULES. The commission may adopt rules as
12 necessary to implement this chapter.

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