

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 1746

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sec. 130.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Adult" means a person who:

(A) has completed sophomore year of high school;

(B) is 17 years of age and has been awarded a high school diploma or its equivalent; or

(C) is 18 years of age or older, regardless of the person's previous educational experience.

(2) "Avocational course" means a course of study in a subject or activity that is usually engaged in by a person in addition to the person's regular work or profession for recreation or in relation to a hobby. The term includes a community interest course.

(3) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(4) "Workforce continuing education" means a program of instruction that:

(A) is designed primarily for adults; and

1           (B) is intended, on completion by a participant,  
2 to prepare the participant to qualify to apply for and accept an  
3 employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational  
4 category or to bring the participant's knowledge or skills up to  
5 date on new developments in a particular occupation or profession.

6           (5) "Workforce continuing education course" means a  
7 course of instruction in workforce continuing education that is  
8 approved by the coordinating board. The term does not include an  
9 avocational course.

10           Sec. 130.302. FORMULA FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE CONTINUING  
11 EDUCATION COURSES. Notwithstanding Section 130.003 or any other  
12 law, contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a  
13 workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior  
14 college shall be included in the contact hours used to determine the  
15 college's proportionate share of state money appropriated and  
16 distributed to public junior colleges under Sections 130.003 and  
17 130.0031, regardless of whether the college waives all or part of  
18 the tuition or fees for the course under Section 130.304.

19           Sec. 130.303. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HIGH  
20 SCHOOL STUDENTS. (a) A public junior college may offer, or may  
21 enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or  
22 other person that operates a high school to offer, workforce  
23 continuing education courses to a person who:

24           (1) is enrolled in high school on the completion of the  
25 person's sophomore year;

26           (2) is enrolled in a school that is not formally  
27 organized as a high school and is at least 16 years of age; or

1           (3) is attending high school while incarcerated, is at  
2 least 16 years of age, and is not eligible for release from  
3 incarceration before the person's 18th birthday.

4           (b) Courses eligible under this section do not include  
5 learning frameworks courses, basic employability skills courses,  
6 or basic learning skills courses.

7           (c) Community interest continuing education courses are not  
8 eligible for formula funding under Section 130.302, but public  
9 junior colleges may offer such courses using local funds.

10           Sec. 130.304. WAIVER OF TUITION AND FEES FOR WORKFORCE  
11 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. A public junior college may waive  
12 all or part of the tuition or fees charged to a student for a  
13 workforce continuing education course.

14           Sec. 130.305. RULES. The coordinating board shall adopt  
15 any rules the coordinating board considers necessary for the  
16 administration of this subchapter. In adopting those rules, the  
17 coordinating board shall use the negotiated rulemaking procedures  
18 under Chapter 2008, Government Code.

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