

By: Phelan

H.B. No. 2784

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Texas Industrial Workforce
Apprenticeship grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 481, Government Code, is amended by
adding Subchapter EE to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER EE. TEXAS INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE APPRENTICESHIP GRANT
PROGRAM

Sec. 481.601. PURPOSE. The purpose of the Texas Industrial
Workforce Apprenticeship grant program is to meet the immediate
industrial workforce needs of the state resulting from the impact
of Hurricane Harvey and overall workforce shortages.

Sec. 481.602. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter,

(1) "Apprenticeship program" means a training program
that provides on-the-job training, preparatory instruction,
supplementary instruction, or related instruction in a trade that
has been certified as an apprenticeship occupation by the Bureau of
Apprenticeship Training of the United States Department of Labor.

(2) "Person" means an individual or a corporation,
partnership, limited liability company, business trust, trust,
association, or other organization, estate, or other legal entity,
or a series of a domestic limited liability company or foreign
entity. The term does not include government or a governmental
subdivision or agency.

1 Sec. 481.603. PROGRAM. The office shall establish and
2 administer the Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship grant
3 program to encourage the private sector to develop specialized
4 industrial workforce apprenticeship training programs. Under the
5 program, the office shall provide grants for persons who meet the
6 requirements in Section 481.605.

7 Sec. 481.604. TEXAS INDUSTRIAL WORKFORCE APPRENTICESHIP
8 FUND. (a) The Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship Fund is a
9 dedicated account in the general revenue fund.

10 (b) The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund:

11 (1) any amounts appropriated by the legislature for
12 the fund for purposes described by this chapter;

13 (2) interest earned on the investment of money in the
14 fund; and

15 (3) gifts, grants, and other donations received for
16 the fund.

17 (c) The fund may be used only for an apprenticeship program
18 that meets the requirements of Section 481.605.

19 Sec. 481.605. APPLICATION; ELIGIBILITY FOR GRANT. (a) To
20 be eligible to receive a grant under this section, the person must:

21 (1) be in good standing under the laws of the state in
22 which the person was formed or organized, as evidenced by a
23 certificate issued by the secretary of state or the state official
24 having custody of the records pertaining to entities or other
25 organizations formed under the laws of that state; and

26 (2) owe no delinquent taxes to a taxing unit of this
27 state.

1 (b) The person shall also have in place an apprenticeship
2 program that:

3 (1) provides on-the-job training under an
4 industry-recognized, accredited training curriculum;

5 (2) guarantees employment for participants during and
6 upon completion of the training period;

7 (3) pays each participant a minimum of \$15 per hour
8 during the training period, and provides eligibility for
9 participants to receive full-time employee benefits during and upon
10 completion of the training period;

11 (4) requires participants to advance their skills, at
12 a minimum, to a credentialed mid-level status in the field related
13 to the apprenticeship program;

14 (5) has a duration of no less than 16 weeks and no
15 longer than 26 weeks; and

16 (6) gives preference to training and hiring:

17 (A) unemployed Texans listed on the database of
18 the Texas Workforce Commission;

19 (B) U.S. military veterans;

20 (C) formerly incarcerated individuals; and

21 (D) underemployed individuals who are working
22 without industry-recognized credentials or certifications.

23 Sec. 481.606. LIMITATIONS ON GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a
24 grant under this chapter may not exceed \$10,000 per apprenticeship
25 program participant to reimburse the cost of training, not
26 including wages and benefits.

27 Sec. 481.607. REQUIREMENTS; GRANT AWARD. (a) Before

1 awarding a grant to a person under this section, the office shall
2 determine that a sufficient number of apprenticeship program
3 participants:

4 (1) completed the program and achieved the training
5 requirements specified by Section 481.605(b) (4); and

6 (2) have maintained available and suitable employment
7 for a period not less than six months cumulatively after completion
8 of the apprenticeship program.

9 (b) The office by rule may develop the criteria for making
10 the determinations specified by Subsection (a).

11 (c) The office shall distribute the grant funds as a
12 reimbursement for training costs incurred by grant recipients in
13 accordance with Section 481.606.

14 Sec. 481.608. PROGRAM RULES. (a) The executive director
15 shall adopt rules to administer and enforce this chapter.

16 (b) The office shall post a copy of the rules on its website.

17 Sec. 481.609. ANNUAL REPORT. (a) By December 1 of each
18 year, the office shall submit to the lieutenant governor, the
19 speaker of the house of representatives, and each other member of
20 the legislature a report on grants made under Section 481.607 that
21 states:

22 (1) the number of direct jobs each recipient created
23 in this state in each category of the Equal Employment Opportunity
24 Code;

25 (2) the median wage of the jobs each recipient created
26 in this state;

27 (3) the total amount of grants made to each recipient;

1 and

2 (4) the number and categorization of program
3 participants trained and employed by each recipient under Section
4 481.605(b)(6).

5 (b) The report may not include information that is made
6 confidential by law.

7 (c) The office may require a recipient of a grant under
8 Section 481.607 to submit, on a form the office provides,
9 information required to complete the report.

10 (d) The office shall post the annual report on its website.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.