

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 756

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the participation of eligible nonprofit organizations in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 134.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

SECTION 2. Chapter 134, Education Code, is amended by amending Section 134.004 and adding Section 134.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 134.004. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish and administer the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to provide grants to public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges, eligible nonprofit organizations, and independent school districts described under Section 134.007 that apply to the advisory board in the manner prescribed by the advisory board. The commission shall award the grants on the advice and recommendations of the advisory board.

(b) Grants may be awarded under this chapter from the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) fund for the following purposes:

1 (1) to develop, support, or expand programs of
2 nonprofit organizations that meet the requirements of Section
3 134.005 and that prepare low-income students for careers in
4 high-demand occupations; and

5 (2) to defray the start-up costs associated with the
6 development of new career and technical education programs at
7 public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state
8 colleges, and independent school districts described under Section
9 134.007 that meet the requirements of Section 134.006.

10 Sec. 134.005. GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR
11 INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS. (a) The commission may award a
12 grant to a nonprofit organization eligible under Subsection (b) for
13 the development, support, or expansion of programs to prepare
14 low-income students for careers in high-demand occupations.

15 (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a
16 nonprofit organization must:

17 (1) provide a program to offer assistance to
18 low-income students in preparing for, applying to, and enrolling in
19 a public junior college or public technical institute;

20 (2) be governed by a board or other governing
21 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based
22 community organizations and members of the local business
23 community;

24 (3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory
25 board that the organization's program has achieved or will achieve
26 the following measures of success among program participants to the
27 extent applicable to the type of program the organization provides:

1 (A) above-average completion of developmental
2 education among participating public junior college or public
3 technical institute students;

4 (B) above-average persistence rates among
5 participating public junior college or public technical institute
6 students;

7 (C) above-average certificate or degree
8 completion rates by participating students within a three-year
9 period compared to demographically comparable public junior
10 college and public technical institute students; and

11 (D) employment of participating students at an
12 average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than
13 the prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

14 (4) provide matching funds in accordance with rules
15 adopted under Section [134.008](#).

16 (c) The matching funds required under Subsection (b)(4) may
17 be obtained from any source available to the nonprofit
18 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or
19 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local
20 governmental agency operating funds.

21 (d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a
22 manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into
23 consideration.

24 SECTION 3. This Act applies beginning with grants awarded
25 for the 2020-2021 academic year.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.