

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of
3 a workforce diploma pilot program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by
6 adding Chapter 317 to read as follows:

7 CHAPTER 317. WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PILOT PROGRAM

8 Sec. 317.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

9 (1) "Adult" means any individual who is over the age of
10 compulsory school attendance prescribed by Section 25.085,
11 Education Code.

12 (2) "Program" means the workforce diploma pilot
13 program established under this chapter.

14 Sec. 317.002. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION;
15 PURPOSE. The commission, in consultation with the Texas Education
16 Agency, shall establish and administer a workforce diploma pilot
17 program under which eligible high school diploma-granting entities
18 participating in the program may be reimbursed for successfully
19 assisting adult students to obtain a high school diploma and
20 develop technical career readiness skills and employability.

21 Sec. 317.003. REQUEST FOR PROGRAM PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.
22 Not later than October 15 of each year, the commission shall publish
23 a request for qualifications for providers to participate in the
24 program.

1 Sec. 317.004. PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to
2 participate as a provider under the program, a provider must:

3 (1) apply to the commission in the manner prescribed
4 by commission rule;

5 (2) be a public, nonprofit, or private entity that is:

6 (A) authorized under the Education Code or other
7 state law to grant a high school diploma; or

8 (B) accredited by a regional accrediting body;

9 (3) have at least two years of experience providing
10 dropout reengagement services to adult students, including
11 recruitment, learning plan development, and proactive coaching and
12 mentoring, leading to the obtainment of a high school diploma;

13 (4) be equipped to:

14 (A) provide:

15 (i) academic skill intake assessment and
16 transcript evaluations;

17 (ii) remediation coursework in literacy and
18 numeracy;

19 (iii) a research-validated academic
20 resiliency assessment and intervention;

21 (iv) employability skills development
22 aligned to employer needs;

23 (v) career pathways coursework;

24 (vi) preparation for the attainment of
25 industry-recognized credentials; and

26 (vii) career placement services; and

27 (B) develop a learning plan that integrates

1 academic requirements and career goals; and

2 (5) offer a course catalog that includes all courses
3 necessary to meet high school graduation requirements in this
4 state.

5 Sec. 317.005. PROVIDER APPROVAL; LIST OF APPROVED
6 PROVIDERS. (a) Not later than November 15 of each year, the
7 commission shall publish a list of providers approved by the
8 commission to participate in the program during the next calendar
9 year.

10 (b) An approved provider maintains approval to participate
11 in the program during a subsequent calendar year without reapplying
12 to the commission unless the provider is removed from the approved
13 provider list as provided by Section 317.008.

14 Sec. 317.006. REIMBURSEMENT OF PROGRAM PROVIDERS FOR
15 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. (a) To the extent money is available for
16 that purpose, the commission shall reimburse each approved provider
17 participating in the program for the achievement of the following
18 milestones by students receiving services from the provider:

19 (1) \$250 for the completion of a half credit;

20 (2) \$250 for the completion of an employability skills
21 certification program equal to at least one credit or the
22 equivalent;

23 (3) \$250 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
24 credential requiring not more than 50 hours of training;

25 (4) \$500 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
26 credential requiring at least 50 but not more than 100 hours of
27 training;

1 (5) \$750 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
2 credential requiring more than 100 hours of training; and

3 (6) \$1,000 for the obtainment of a high school
4 diploma.

5 (b) Not later than the 10th calendar day of each month, an
6 approved provider participating in the program shall submit to the
7 commission an invoice for the milestones achieved by the provider's
8 students during the previous calendar month.

9 (c) The commission shall reimburse approved program
10 providers in the order in which invoices are received by the
11 commission until all funds available for the program are exhausted.

12 Sec. 317.007. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than January 15 of
13 each year, each approved provider that participated in the program
14 during the previous calendar year shall report to the commission
15 the following data regarding the provider's students for that year:

16 (1) the number of students for which the provider
17 received reimbursement under the program;

18 (2) the total number of credits earned by the
19 students;

20 (3) the total number of employability skills
21 certification programs completed by the students;

22 (4) the total number of industry-recognized
23 credentials attained by the students in each of the funding tiers
24 described by Sections 317.006(a)(3), (4), and (5); and

25 (5) the number of students who obtained a high school
26 diploma.

27 Sec. 317.008. PROVIDER PERFORMANCE REVIEW. (a) The

1 commission by rule shall prescribe minimum performance standards
2 for providers participating in the program. The minimum
3 performance standards must include:

4 (1) a graduation rate of at least 50 percent; and

5 (2) a program cost per graduate of \$7,000 or less.

6 (b) For purposes of Subsections (a)(1) and (2), the
7 commission by rule shall develop formulas to make the appropriate
8 calculations. The graduation rate must be calculated one cohort
9 year in arrears.

10 (c) The commission shall review data from each
11 participating approved provider annually to ensure that the
12 services offered by the provider are meeting the minimum
13 performance standards. If the commission determines that an
14 approved provider did not meet the minimum performance standards in
15 the previous calendar year, the commission shall place the provider
16 on probationary status for the remainder of the current calendar
17 year.

18 (d) The commission shall remove from the approved provider
19 list published under Section 317.005 any provider that does not
20 meet the minimum performance standards for two consecutive calendar
21 years.

22 Sec. 317.009. REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each
23 even-numbered year, the commission shall submit to the legislature
24 a report on the effectiveness of the program. The commission shall
25 include in the report a recommendation regarding whether the
26 program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

27 Sec. 317.010. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September

1 1, 2025.

2 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission is required to
3 implement a provision of this Act only if the legislature
4 appropriates money specifically for that purpose. If the
5 legislature does not appropriate money specifically for that
6 purpose, the Texas Workforce Commission may, but is not required
7 to, implement a provision of this Act using other appropriations
8 available for that purpose.

9 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1055 passed the Senate on April 25, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 2; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 13, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 2.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1055 passed the House, with amendment, on May 7, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 131, Nays 16, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor