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By:  Button H.B. No. 1791

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for job-training programs provided under the self-sufficiency fund.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 309.002(a), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Subject to the availability of funds, the self-sufficiency fund is created as an account in the general revenue fund for use by public community and technical colleges, community-based organizations, and state extension agencies to develop [~~for certain recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, customized~~] job-training programs in which individuals who are identified by the commission as being low-income or at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance benefits are [~~the recipients will be~~] provided job training by:

(1)  an entity that develops a job-training program under this section;

(2)  a small or medium-sized business or trade union; or

(3)  an informal partnership between an entity that develops a job-training program under this section and a small or medium-sized business network or consortium.

SECTION 2.  Section 309.003(b), Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  An entity that receives money from the fund for a job-training program shall work in conjunction with employers to place participants who successfully complete [~~graduates of~~] the program in positions of employment in which the participants [~~graduates~~] will earn [~~be earning~~] wages sufficient to enable the participants [~~graduates~~] to become independent of or avoid becoming dependent on benefits under the financial assistance program established under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, and if applicable, benefits [~~assistance~~] provided under the supplemental nutrition assistance [~~food stamp~~] program established [~~administered by the Texas Department of Human Services~~] under Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

SECTION 3.  Section 309.004, Labor Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 309.004.  RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. The commission shall adopt rules to implement this chapter, including rules to:

(1)  identify individuals who are low-income or at risk of becoming dependent on public assistance benefits; and

(2)  determine which individuals identified under Subdivision (1) [~~recipients of financial assistance under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code,~~] are eligible to participate in job-training programs developed with money from the fund.

SECTION 4.  If before implementing any provision of this Act a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary for implementation of that provision, the agency affected by the provision shall request the waiver or authorization and may delay implementing that provision until the waiver or authorization is granted.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.