

AN ACT

relating to the expansion of the Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program to include certain nonprofit organizations providing job training to veterans.

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

SECTION 1. Section 136.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (5) to read as follows:

(5) "Veteran" means a person who has served in:

(A) the army, navy, air force, coast guard, or marine corps of the United States;

(B) the state military forces as defined by Section 431.001, Government Code, other than the Texas State Guard;

or

(C) an auxiliary service of one of those branches of the armed forces.

SECTION 2. Section 136.005, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 136.005. TEXAS INNOVATIVE ADULT CAREER EDUCATION (ACE) GRANT PROGRAM. (a) The grant administrator shall establish and administer the Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program to provide grants to:

(1) eligible nonprofit workforce intermediary and job training organizations; and

(2) eligible nonprofit organizations providing job

1 training to veterans.

2 (a-1) In awarding grants under the program, the grant
3 administrator shall take into consideration the recommendations of
4 the program advisory board.

5 (b) Grants may be awarded under this chapter from the Texas
6 Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant fund only to develop,
7 support, or expand programs of eligible nonprofit workforce
8 intermediary and job training organizations and of eligible
9 nonprofit organizations providing job training to veterans to
10 prepare low-income students or veterans, as applicable, to enter
11 careers in high-demand and significantly higher-earning
12 occupations.

13 SECTION 3. Section 136.006, Education Code, is amended by
14 adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsection (b) to read as
15 follows:

16 (a-1) To be eligible for a grant under the program, a
17 nonprofit organization providing job training services to veterans
18 must:

19 (1) apply to the grant administrator in the manner
20 prescribed by the grant administrator;

21 (2) provide to veterans, in partnership with public
22 junior colleges, public state colleges, or public technical
23 institutes:

24 (A) job training; and

25 (B) a continuum of services designed to move a
26 program participant from application to employment, including
27 outreach, assessment, case management, support services, and

1 career placement;

2 (3) be governed by a board or other governing
3 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based
4 community organizations and executive-level or managerial-level
5 members of the local business community;

6 (4) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the program
7 advisory board that the organization's program has achieved or will
8 achieve the following measures of success among program
9 participants:

10 (A) the measures prescribed by Subsections
11 (a)(4)(A)-(C);

12 (B) rapid attainment of civilian workforce
13 credentials; and

14 (C) entry into careers with significantly higher
15 earnings for program participants than previously achieved; and

16 (5) provide matching funds in accordance with rules
17 adopted under this chapter.

18 (b) The matching funds required under Subsection (a)(5) or
19 (a-1)(5) may be obtained from any source available to the
20 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or
21 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local
22 governmental agency operating funds. The grant administrator may
23 adopt rules requiring an organization to demonstrate compliance
24 with the matching funds requirement before the payment of the next
25 installment under an awarded grant.

26 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 626 was passed by the House on April 9, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 144, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 626 on May 3, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 626 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on April 29, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor