

By: Rosenthal

H.B. No. 626

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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; 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 training to veterans.

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

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

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

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

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

20 (2) provide to veterans:

21 (A) job training; and

22 (B) a continuum of services designed to move a
23 program participant from application to employment, including
24 outreach, assessment, case management, support services, and
25 career placement;

26 (3) be governed by a board or other governing
27 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based

1 community organizations and executive-level or managerial-level
2 members of the local business community;

3 (4) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the program
4 advisory board that the organization's program has achieved or will
5 achieve the following measure of success among program
6 participants:

7 (A) rapid attainment of civilian workforce
8 credentials; and

9 (B) entry into careers with significantly higher
10 earnings for program participants than previously achieved; and

11 (5) provide matching funds in accordance with rules
12 adopted under this chapter.

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

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