

AN ACT

relating to the development of and report on a tri-agency work-based learning strategic framework by the Texas Workforce Commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by adding Chapter 318 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 318. TRI-AGENCY WORK-BASED LEARNING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

Sec. 318.001. TRI-AGENCY WORK-BASED LEARNING STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK. (a) The commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board jointly shall develop a strategic framework to encourage work-based learning in this state. Each agency shall appoint an existing agency employee to lead the development of the framework.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2022, the commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board jointly shall prepare and submit to the legislature a report on the framework developed under Subsection (a). The report must:

(1) define "work-based learning opportunity" in a comprehensive manner that includes a variety of high-quality and rigorous work-based learning opportunities, such as youth apprenticeships, internships, simulated workplaces, service learning, and virtual workspaces;

1 (2) determine common language, definitions, and
2 quality standards to be used by each agency for work-based learning
3 opportunities that span secondary and postsecondary education;

4 (3) establish methods of identifying student and adult
5 learner skills and competencies that are aligned with industry
6 demand and talent needs, with a particular focus on high-demand,
7 high-growth industries that offer livable wages;

8 (4) align priorities, programs, and goals across the
9 agencies to ensure the development of cohesive work-based learning
10 strategies that strengthen workforce pipelines;

11 (5) identify strategies for the agencies to partner
12 with public primary and secondary schools, public institutions of
13 higher education, businesses, workforce organizations, and
14 relevant collaboratives to implement high-quality project-based
15 learning in middle and junior high school classrooms and work-based
16 learning experiences in high school and postsecondary education;

17 (6) provide methods of supporting partnerships
18 between public institutions of higher education to create
19 additional pathways for postsecondary work-based learning
20 credentials of value to high-demand, high-growth industries and
21 that lead to quality career opportunities;

22 (7) articulate the roles and responsibilities of
23 public primary and secondary schools, public institutions of higher
24 education, and workforce boards and organizations in implementing
25 high-quality work-based learning programs and partnerships;

26 (8) provide a strategy for identifying industry-led
27 high-quality training models that promote and replicate high-need

1 jobs that lead to equitable outcomes for individuals and can be
2 scaled across industries and regions;

3 (9) identify opportunities to improve and incentivize
4 regional coordination across the state to better reflect regional
5 workforce needs and eliminate duplicative programs, including by
6 providing state support to build capacity in regional intermediary
7 organizations to facilitate education-workforce partnerships and
8 programs;

9 (10) identify streamlined data collection models for
10 primary, secondary, and postsecondary education and workforce
11 accountability that can be disaggregated as necessary to evaluate
12 and increase equity in access to high-quality programs, with a
13 focus on underrepresented populations;

14 (11) include recommendations to improve the
15 coordination of funds and awarding of grants among the agencies to
16 eliminate barriers to entry for regional partners; and

17 (12) identify any available federal funds that may be
18 used for work-based learning and training and include
19 recommendations regarding the use of those funds by the agencies,
20 including supporting incentives for public institutions of higher
21 education, work-study programs, and student advising and
22 completion strategies.

23 (c) As soon as practicable after the report is submitted,
24 the commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher
25 Education Coordinating Board shall, to the extent possible,
26 implement the recommendations made under Subsection (b)(12).

27 Sec. 318.002. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September

1 1, 2023.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1247 was passed by the House on April 16, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 120, Nays 25, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1247 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 114, Nays 32, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1247 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 24, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 29, Nays 1.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor