

By: Hinojosa

S.B. No. 302

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 134.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as follows:

(1-a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

SECTION 2. Section 134.003, Education Code, is amended by amending Subsection (b) and adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b) The advisory board is composed of eight [~~six~~] members who serve two-year terms and are appointed as follows:

(1) one member appointed by the governor;

(2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor;

(3) one member appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;

(4) one member appointed by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

(5) one member appointed by the commissioner of education;

(6) two members [~~one member~~] appointed by the

1 commission, one of whom must represent a nonprofit organization  
2 located in this state that provides, or has experience in  
3 providing, training services that prepare low-income students for  
4 careers in high-demand occupations; and

5 (7) [~~6~~] the chair of the commission, who serves as  
6 the presiding officer.

7 (b-1) Before appointing the members described by Subsection  
8 (b)(6), the commission shall publish a request for applications and  
9 must consider appointing qualified individuals from among the  
10 resulting applicant pool.

11 SECTION 3. Section 134.004, Education Code, is amended to  
12 read as follows:

13 Sec. 134.004. JOBS AND EDUCATION FOR TEXANS (JET) GRANT  
14 PROGRAM. (a) The commission shall establish and administer the  
15 Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program to provide grants  
16 to public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public  
17 state colleges, eligible nonprofit organizations, and independent  
18 school districts described under Section 134.007 that apply to the  
19 advisory board in the manner prescribed by the advisory board. The  
20 commission shall award the grants on the advice and recommendations  
21 of the advisory board.

22 (b) Grants may be awarded under this chapter from the Jobs  
23 and Education for Texans (JET) fund for the following purposes:

24 (1) to develop, support, or expand programs of  
25 nonprofit organizations that meet the requirements of Section  
26 134.005 and that prepare low-income students for careers in  
27 high-demand occupations; and

1           (2) to defray the start-up costs associated with the  
2 development of new career and technical education programs at  
3 public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state  
4 colleges, and independent school districts described under Section  
5 [134.007](#) that meet the requirements of Section [134.006](#).

6           SECTION 4. Chapter [134](#), Education Code, is amended by  
7 adding Section 134.005 to read as follows:

8           Sec. 134.005. GRANTS TO NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
9 INNOVATIVE AND SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS. (a) The commission may award a  
10 grant to a nonprofit organization eligible under Subsection (b) for  
11 the development, support, or expansion of programs to prepare  
12 low-income students for careers in high-demand occupations.

13           (b) To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a  
14 nonprofit organization must:

15           (1) provide a program to offer assistance to  
16 low-income students in preparing for, applying to, and enrolling in  
17 a public junior college or public technical institute;

18           (2) be governed by a board or other governing  
19 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based  
20 community organizations and members of the local business  
21 community;

22           (3) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the advisory  
23 board that the organization's program has achieved or will achieve  
24 the following measures of success among program participants to the  
25 extent applicable to the type of program the organization provides:

26           (A) above-average completion of developmental  
27 education among participating public junior college or public

1 technical institute students;

2 (B) above-average persistence rates among  
3 participating public junior college or public technical institute  
4 students;

5 (C) above-average certificate or degree  
6 completion rates by participating students within a three-year  
7 period compared to demographically comparable public junior  
8 college and public technical institute students; and

9 (D) employment of participating students at an  
10 average full-time starting wage that is equal to or greater than  
11 the prevailing wage for the occupation entered; and

12 (4) provide matching funds in accordance with rules  
13 adopted under Section [134.008](#).

14 (c) The matching funds required under Subsection (b)(4) may  
15 be obtained from any source available to the nonprofit  
16 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or  
17 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local  
18 governmental agency operating funds.

19 (d) Grants awarded under this section must be awarded in a  
20 manner that takes a balanced geographical distribution into  
21 consideration.

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