

By: Powell

S.B. No. 663

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the development of and report on a tri-agency  
3 work-based learning strategic framework by the Texas Workforce  
4 Commission, the Texas Education Agency, and the Texas Higher  
5 Education Coordinating Board.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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.

17 Sec. 318.002. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September  
18 1, 2023.

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