

By: Creighton, et al.

S.B. No. 1102

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the establishment of the Texas Reskilling and
3 Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program to support workforce
4 education.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 61, Education Code, is amended by adding
7 Subchapter T-2 to read as follows:

8 SUBCHAPTER T-2. TEXAS RESKILLING AND UPSKILLING THROUGH EDUCATION
9 (TRUE) PROGRAM

10 Sec. 61.881. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

11 (1) "Eligible entity" means:

12 (A) a public junior college or public technical
13 institute;

14 (B) a consortium of public junior colleges or
15 public technical institutes; or

16 (C) a local chamber of commerce, trade
17 association, or economic development corporation that partners
18 with a public junior college or public technical institute or a
19 consortium of public junior colleges or public technical
20 institutes.

21 (2) "Program" means the Texas Reskilling and
22 Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program established under this
23 subchapter.

24 Sec. 61.882. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION; PURPOSE. (a)

1 The Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE)
2 Program is established to strengthen the Texas workforce and build
3 a stronger Texas economy.

4 (b) The board shall administer the program in accordance
5 with this subchapter and rules adopted under this subchapter.

6 (c) Under the program, using funds appropriated or
7 otherwise available for the purpose, the board shall award grants
8 to eligible entities for creating, redesigning, or expanding
9 workforce training programs and delivering education and workforce
10 training that:

11 (1) lead to postsecondary industry certifications or
12 other workforce credentials required for high-demand occupations;

13 (2) are developed and provided in consultation with
14 employers who are hiring in high-demand occupations; and

15 (3) create pathways to employment for students and
16 learners.

17 (d) In awarding grants under this subchapter, the board:

18 (1) shall, to the greatest extent practicable:

19 (A) award grants to at least one eligible entity
20 in each region of the state; and

21 (B) ensure that each training program:

22 (i) matches regional workforce needs;

23 (ii) is supported by a labor market
24 analysis of job postings and employers hiring roles with the skills
25 developed by the program; and

26 (iii) does not duplicate existing program
27 offerings within the region; and

1 (2) may give preference to applicants that:

2 (A) represent a consortium of public junior
3 colleges and public technical institutes;

4 (B) prioritize training to displaced workers;

5 (C) offer affordable training programs to
6 students; or

7 (D) partner with local chambers of commerce,
8 trade associations, economic development corporations, and local
9 workforce boards to analyze job postings and identify employers
10 hiring roles with the skills developed by the training programs.

11 Sec. 61.883. USE OF GRANT. (a) A grant awarded to an
12 eligible entity under this subchapter may be used only for the
13 support and maintenance of educational and general activities that
14 promote workforce learning, including:

15 (1) providing training in existing, new, or redesigned
16 accelerated programs that teach high-demand skills and lead to
17 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
18 credentials valued in growing occupations;

19 (2) developing new industry-aligned, high-demand
20 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
21 credentials and certificate programs or other courses of
22 instruction leading to those certifications or credentials that can
23 be completed in six months or less;

24 (3) redesigning existing postsecondary industry
25 certifications or credentials and certificate programs or other
26 courses of instruction leading to those certifications or
27 credentials to meet the standards under Subdivision (2);

1 (4) expanding institutional capacity to provide
2 high-demand postsecondary industry certifications or other
3 workforce credentials that are stackable in high-demand career
4 pathways and address the needs of high-demand occupations
5 identified by the Texas Workforce Commission or applicable local
6 workforce development boards;

7 (5) providing student aid awards to incentivize
8 enrollment in and completion of industry-aligned, high-demand
9 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
10 credentials and certificate programs or other courses of
11 instruction leading to those certifications or credentials; and

12 (6) tracking and reporting enrollment, credential
13 completion, and employment outcomes for students in courses and
14 programs described by this subsection to gauge the impact on
15 student success.

16 (b) Money received by an eligible entity under the program
17 in a fiscal year that is not used by the entity in that fiscal year
18 may be held and used by the entity in the subsequent fiscal year for
19 the purposes prescribed in this section if the entity provides to
20 the board a reasonable explanation for holding and using the money
21 in the subsequent fiscal year.

22 Sec. 61.884. RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS OR CREDENTIALS. (a)
23 The board, in collaboration with eligible entities, the Texas
24 Workforce Commission, and private employers, shall identify
25 existing and develop new postsecondary industry certifications or
26 other workforce credentials valued in high-demand occupations.

27 (b) The board, in consultation with eligible entities,

1 shall:

2 (1) identify postsecondary industry certifications or
3 other workforce credentials developed or redesigned using grant
4 funds under the program; and

5 (2) establish methods for collecting and reporting
6 data related to the certifications or credentials identified under
7 Subdivision (1).

8 (c) An eligible entity awarded a grant under this subchapter
9 may recommend outcomes related to the achievement or development of
10 postsecondary industry certifications or other workforce
11 credentials identified under this section to be considered by the
12 board for inclusion in the state's long-range master plan for
13 higher education developed under Section 61.051.

14 (d) In devising its funding formulas and making its
15 recommendations to the legislature relating to institutional
16 appropriations of funds for public junior colleges and public
17 technical institutes under Section 61.059, the board shall
18 incorporate the consideration of the achievement or development of
19 postsecondary industry certifications and other workforce
20 credentials identified under this section.

21 Sec. 61.885. GRANTS, GIFTS, AND DONATIONS. The board may
22 solicit, accept, and spend grants, gifts, and donations from any
23 public or private source for the purposes of this subchapter.

24 Sec. 61.886. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
25 administration of this subchapter, including rules requiring
26 eligible entities awarded a grant under this subchapter to report
27 necessary information to the board.

1 SECTION 2. (a) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating
2 Board shall adopt rules to administer Subchapter T-2, Chapter 61,
3 Education Code, as added by this Act, as soon as practicable after
4 the effective date of this Act.

5 (b) The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board shall
6 award grants under Subchapter T-2, Chapter 61, Education Code, as
7 added by this Act, beginning with the 2021 fall semester.

8 SECTION 3. The Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board is
9 required to implement this Act only if the legislature appropriates
10 money specifically for that purpose. If the legislature does not
11 appropriate money specifically for that purpose, the coordinating
12 board may, but is not required to, implement this Act using other
13 appropriations available for that purpose.

14 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
15 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
16 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
17 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
18 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.