

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program to support workforce education.

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

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

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

Sec. 61.881. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Eligible entity" means:

(A) a lower-division institution of higher education;

(B) a consortium of lower-division institutions of higher education; or

(C) a local chamber of commerce, trade association, or economic development corporation that partners with a lower-division institution of higher education or a consortium of lower-division institutions of higher education.

(2) "Lower-division institution of higher education" means a public junior college, public state college, or public technical institute.

(3) "Program" means the Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE) Program established under this

1 subchapter.

2 Sec. 61.882. ESTABLISHMENT; ADMINISTRATION; PURPOSE. (a)
3 The Texas Reskilling and Upskilling through Education (TRUE)
4 Program is established to strengthen the Texas workforce and build
5 a stronger Texas economy.

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

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

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

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

17 (3) create pathways to employment for students and
18 learners.

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

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

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

23 (B) ensure that each training program:

24 (i) matches regional workforce needs;

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

1 (iii) does not duplicate existing program
2 offerings except as necessary to accommodate regional demand; and

3 (2) may give preference to applicants that:

4 (A) represent a consortium of lower-division
5 institutions of higher education;

6 (B) prioritize training to displaced workers;

7 (C) offer affordable training programs to
8 students; or

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

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

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

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

26 (3) redesigning existing postsecondary industry
27 certifications or credentials and certificate programs or other

1 courses of instruction leading to those certifications or
2 credentials to meet the standards under Subdivision (2);

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

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

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

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

24 Sec. 61.884. RECOGNIZED CERTIFICATIONS OR CREDENTIALS. (a)
25 The board, in collaboration with eligible entities, the Texas
26 Workforce Commission, and private employers, shall identify
27 existing and new postsecondary industry certifications or other

1 workforce credentials valued in high-demand occupations.

2 (b) The board, in consultation with eligible entities,
3 shall:

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

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

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

16 (d) In devising its funding formulas and making its
17 recommendations to the legislature relating to institutional
18 appropriations of funds for lower-division institutions of higher
19 education under Section 61.059, the board shall incorporate the
20 consideration of the achievement or development of postsecondary
21 industry certifications and other workforce credentials identified
22 under this section.

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

26 Sec. 61.886. RULES. The board shall adopt rules for the
27 administration of this subchapter, including rules requiring

1 eligible entities awarded a grant under this subchapter to report
2 necessary information to the board.

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

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

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

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1102 passed the Senate on April 22, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0; and that the Senate concurred in House amendment on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

I hereby certify that S.B. No. 1102 passed the House, with amendment, on May 20, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 121, Nays 24, one present not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

Approved:

Date

Governor