

By: Alvarado

S.B. No. 1184

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 29, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter Z-1 to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER Z-1. COMMISSION ON TEXAS WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE

Sec. 29.951. DEFINITION. In this subchapter, "commission" means the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future.

Sec. 29.952. COMMISSION ON TEXAS WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE.

(a) The Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future is established to engage business, state agencies, and local workforce system partners in the efforts of state and local authorities to build the state's workforce talent pipeline.

(b) The commission members shall provide reliable and accurate data pertinent to college and career readiness, industry-based workforce credentials, associate and bachelor's degree programs, and high-demand industry jobs and careers.

(c) The commission is composed of 17 members as follows:

- (1) five members appointed by the governor;
- (2) four members appointed by the lieutenant governor;
- (3) four members appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives;
- (4) the commissioner of higher education or the

1 commissioner's designee;

2 (5) a commissioner of the Texas Workforce Commission  
3 appointed by the chair of the Texas Workforce Commission, or the  
4 commissioner's designee;

5 (6) the commissioner or the commissioner's designee;  
6 and

7 (7) the chair of the Texas Economic Development  
8 Corporation.

9 (d) The members appointed by the governor must have an  
10 interest in the future of the state's workforce. At least one of  
11 the members appointed by the governor must be a member of a  
12 statewide labor federation. In appointing the members, the  
13 governor shall consider appointing a business leader representing  
14 each of the following industries:

- 15 (1) oil and gas;
- 16 (2) technology and manufacturing;
- 17 (3) health care;
- 18 (4) construction; and
- 19 (5) petrochemicals.

20 (e) The appointments made by the lieutenant governor must  
21 include:

- 22 (1) two members of the senate;
- 23 (2) an administrator in a kindergarten through 12th  
24 grade public school system or an elected member of the board of  
25 trustees of a school district; and
- 26 (3) the superintendent of an adult education program  
27 provided under an adult high school diploma and industry

1 certification charter school program under Section 29.259, or the  
2 superintendent's designee.

3 (f) The appointments made by the speaker of the house of  
4 representatives must include:

5 (1) two members of the house of representatives;

6 (2) a representative of a high school dropout recovery  
7 adult education program serving students who are at least 18 years  
8 of age and not older than 25 years of age or a public school  
9 superintendent who oversees a high school dropout recovery adult  
10 education program; and

11 (3) an administrator of a public community or  
12 technical college or a public university in this state.

13 (g) In making appointments under Subsection (c), the  
14 governor, the lieutenant governor, and the speaker of the house of  
15 representatives shall coordinate to ensure that the members they  
16 appoint reflect, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic  
17 diversity of this state.

18 Sec. 29.953. PRESIDING OFFICER. The governor shall  
19 designate the presiding officer of the commission. The presiding  
20 officer must be a business executive.

21 Sec. 29.954. COMPENSATION AND REIMBURSEMENT. A member of  
22 the commission is not entitled to compensation for service on the  
23 commission but is entitled to reimbursement for actual and  
24 necessary expenses incurred in performing commission duties.

25 Sec. 29.955. ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND FUNDING. (a)  
26 Staff members of the agency shall provide administrative support  
27 for the commission.

1        (b) Funding for the administrative and operational expenses  
2 of the commission shall be provided by appropriation to the agency.

3        Sec. 29.956. RECOMMENDATIONS. (a) The commission shall  
4 develop recommendations under this subchapter to address issues  
5 related to workforce development and the future of the state's  
6 workforce, including:

7            (1) strengthening and supporting industry-led  
8 public-private partnerships that connect people with careers and  
9 match employers with skilled talent;

10           (2) improving regional coordination and alignment  
11 between industry, the public workforce system, public schools,  
12 higher education institutions, and community-based organizations  
13 to create college and career pathways that lead to good jobs;

14           (3) attracting, educating, developing, and placing  
15 workers in high-demand industry sectors;

16           (4) addressing the current and future skills gap  
17 across the state economy and identifying statewide initiatives to  
18 enhance cross-sector collaboration, communication, and alignment;

19           (5) identifying incentives to encourage cooperation  
20 between sectors that fosters innovative approaches to meet the  
21 current and future workforce demands;

22           (6) increasing the number of work-based learning  
23 opportunities in this state and the availability of those  
24 opportunities, including for persons experiencing barriers to  
25 employment and who are historically underrepresented in  
26 high-growth, high-wage industries, including in small and midsize  
27 companies;

1           (7) developing a comprehensive plan for phasing in,  
2 beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, an expansion of the adult  
3 high school diploma and industry certification charter school  
4 program under Section 29.259 as a strategy for meeting industry  
5 needs for a sufficiently trained workforce within this state; and

6           (8) recommending statutory changes to the laws  
7 governing the public workforce system, public education, and higher  
8 education to enhance career path options and ensure long-term  
9 collaboration with industry.

10          (b) The commission shall establish one or more work groups  
11 composed of not more than five members of the commission to study,  
12 discuss, and address specific policy issues and recommendations to  
13 refer to the commission for consideration. In establishing a work  
14 group under this subsection, the commission shall ensure that the  
15 membership of the work group includes at least two representatives  
16 from the business community.

17          Sec. 29.957. REPORT. Not later than December 31, 2022, the  
18 commission shall prepare and deliver a report to the governor and  
19 the legislature that includes recommendations for statutory and  
20 regulatory changes to enhance workforce development and  
21 coordination and alignment between industry, public education, and  
22 higher education, including any adjustments to college and career  
23 pathway programs.

24          Sec. 29.958. PUBLIC MEETINGS AND PUBLIC INFORMATION. (a)  
25 The commission may hold public meetings as needed to fulfill the  
26 commission's duties under this subchapter.

27          (b) The commission is subject to Chapters 551 and 552,

1 Government Code.

2 Sec. 29.959. COMMISSION ABOLISHED; EXPIRATION OF  
3 SUBCHAPTER. The commission is abolished and this subchapter  
4 expires January 12, 2023.

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