

By: Howard

H.B. No. 4454

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the administration of the Texas Innovative Adult Career
3 Education (ACE) Grant Program by the Texas Higher Education
4 Coordinating Board.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 136.001, Education Code, is amended by
7 amending Subdivision (1) and adding Subdivision (1-a) to read as
8 follows:

9 (1) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
10 Education Coordinating Board.

11 (1-a) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization
12 exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal
13 Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section
14 501(c)(3) of that code.

15 SECTION 2. Section 136.005(a), Education Code, is amended
16 to read as follows:

17 (a) The coordinating board [~~grant administrator~~] shall
18 establish and administer the Texas Innovative Adult Career
19 Education (ACE) Grant Program to provide grants to:

20 (1) eligible nonprofit workforce intermediary and job
21 training organizations; and

22 (2) eligible nonprofit organizations providing job
23 training to veterans.

24 SECTION 3. Section 136.006, Education Code, is amended to

1 read as follows:

2 Sec. 136.006. ELIGIBLE ORGANIZATIONS. (a) To be eligible
3 for a grant under the program, a nonprofit workforce intermediary
4 and job training organization must:

5 (1) apply to the coordinating board [~~grant~~
6 ~~administrator~~] in the manner prescribed by the coordinating board
7 [~~grant administrator~~];

8 (2) provide to eligible low-income students, in
9 partnership with public junior colleges, public state colleges, or
10 public technical institutes:

11 (A) job training; and

12 (B) a continuum of services designed to move a
13 program participant from application to employment, including
14 outreach, assessment, case management, support services, and
15 career placement;

16 (3) be governed by a board or other governing
17 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based
18 community organizations and executive-level or managerial-level
19 members of the local business community;

20 (4) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the
21 coordinating board [~~program advisory board~~] that the
22 organization's program has achieved or will achieve the following
23 measures of success among program participants:

24 (A) above-average completion of developmental
25 education among participating public junior college, public state
26 college, or public technical institute students;

27 (B) above-average persistence rates among

1 participating public junior college, public state college, or
2 public technical institute students;

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

8 (D) entry into careers with significantly higher
9 earnings for program participants than previously achieved; and

10 (5) provide matching funds in accordance with rules
11 adopted under this chapter.

12 (a-1) To be eligible for a grant under the program, a
13 nonprofit organization providing job training services to veterans
14 must:

15 (1) apply to the coordinating board [~~grant~~
16 ~~administrator~~] in the manner prescribed by the coordinating board
17 [~~grant administrator~~];

18 (2) provide to veterans, in partnership with public
19 junior colleges, public state colleges, or public technical
20 institutes:

21 (A) job training; and

22 (B) a continuum of services designed to move a
23 program participant from application to employment, including
24 outreach, assessment, case management, support services, and
25 career placement;

26 (3) be governed by a board or other governing
27 structure that includes recognized leaders of broad-based

1 community organizations and executive-level or managerial-level
2 members of the local business community;

3 (4) demonstrate to the satisfaction of the
4 coordinating board [~~program advisory board~~] that the
5 organization's program has achieved or will achieve the following
6 measures of success among program participants:

7 (A) the measures prescribed by Subsections
8 (a)(4)(A)-(C);

9 (B) rapid attainment of civilian workforce
10 credentials; and

11 (C) entry into careers with significantly higher
12 earnings for program participants than previously achieved; and

13 (5) provide matching funds in accordance with rules
14 adopted under this chapter.

15 (b) The matching funds required under Subsection (a)(5) or
16 (a-1)(5) may be obtained from any source available to the
17 organization, including in-kind contributions, community or
18 foundation grants, individual contributions, and local
19 governmental agency operating funds. The coordinating board [~~grant
20 administrator~~] may adopt rules requiring an organization to
21 demonstrate compliance with the matching funds requirement before
22 the payment of the next installment under an awarded grant.

23 SECTION 4. Section 136.007, Education Code, is amended to
24 read as follows:

25 Sec. 136.007. RULES. [~~(a)~~] The coordinating board [~~grant
26 administrator~~] shall adopt rules as necessary for the
27 administration of this chapter, including [~~in the manner provided~~

1 ~~by Chapter 2001, Government Code, for a state agency.~~

2 ~~[(b) The grant administrator, with recommendations of the~~
3 ~~program advisory board, shall adopt]~~ rules regarding eligibility,
4 program tuition and fees, administrative costs, matching funds, and
5 case management and other supports for the program. The rules may
6 include provisions for the payment in periodic installments of
7 grant awards.

8 SECTION 5. The following provisions of Chapter 136,
9 Education Code, are repealed:

10 (1) Sections 136.002 and 136.004; and

11 (2) Section 136.005(a-1).

12 SECTION 6. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.