

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

S.B. 1143
By: Blanco
Economic Development
6/10/2025
Enrolled

AUTHOR'S / SPONSOR'S STATEMENT OF INTENT

Texas' workforce development programs are vital to preparing young individuals—particularly those classified as "opportunity youth"—for successful careers. Opportunity youth, defined as individuals aged 16 to 24 who are neither in school nor employed, face significant barriers to economic stability. In Texas, 13.7 percent of young adults fall into this category, exceeding the national average of 12.1 percent. This high rate of disengaged youth threatens the state's long-term economic growth and workforce readiness.

However, a lack of targeted planning, accountability, and coordination between governmental entities and workforce development boards has hindered efforts to support this population.

S.B. 1143 introduces three key reforms to close these gaps and ensure that the next generation of Texas workers is equipped with the skills and opportunities needed for success. The bill would:

- Establish specific goals and performance metrics for workforce development plans that address young workers.
- Improve coordination by requiring notification to the Texas Workforce Commission and relevant local workforce boards when financial incentives result in the creation of 100 or more new jobs.
- Mandate annual evaluations of workforce programs to assess effectiveness, track outcomes, and strengthen partnerships with schools, higher education institutions, and employers.
- Findings from these evaluations must be made publicly available and submitted to the legislature, ensuring data-driven policymaking that supports workforce development and economic growth in Texas.

(Original Author's/Sponsor's Statement of Intent)

S.B. 1143 amends current law relating to certain planning and evaluation requirements with respect to certain workforce development programs in this state.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 2308.304, Government Code, by adding Subsection (c-1), as follows:

(c-1) Requires that a plan adopted under Section 2308.304 (Local Plan), in establishing goals, objectives, and performance measures for segments of the population under Subsection (c) (relating to requiring that the plan specify how all of the available resources from the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) will be used to achieve the goals and objectives of the plan for the area), establish specific goals, objectives, and performance measures for individuals who are at least 14 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

SECTION 2. Amends Subchapter E, Chapter 302, Labor Code, by adding Section 302.087, as follows:

Sec. 302.087. EVALUATION OF WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES. (a) Defines "federally funded youth program."

(b) Requires TWC to annually evaluate the effectiveness of TWC's federally funded youth programs and the best practices for local workforce development boards to meet the current and projected workforce needs of employers in workforce development areas and provide workforce development services to individuals who are at least 14 years of age but younger than 25 years of age.

(c) Requires that the evaluation under Subsection (b) include certain data, assessments, and examples.

(d) Requires TWC to make the evaluation conducted under Subsection (b), any information collected in the course of conducting the evaluation, and any findings of TWC arising from the evaluation readily available to local workforce development boards, employers, institutions of higher education, school districts, open-enrollment charter schools, and the public.

(e) Requires TWC, not later than January 15 of each odd-numbered year, to make a report to the legislature detailing TWC's findings on the effectiveness of TWC's federally funded youth programs. Requires that the report include certain information.

SECTION 3. Effective date: September 1, 2025.