

By: Lozano

H.B. No. 1702

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to eligibility for the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund grant program.

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

SECTION 1. Section 134A.001, Education Code, is amended by adding Subdivision (3) to read as follows:

(3) "Qualifying general academic teaching institution" means a general academic teaching institution as defined by Section 61.003 that:

(A) has a student enrollment of less than 10,000;

(B) is located in a county with a population of less than 35,000; and

(C) is designated by the United States Department of Education as a Minority Serving Institution (MSI).

SECTION 2. Section 134A.006, Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 134A.006. LONE STAR WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE FUND GRANT PROGRAM. The commission shall establish and administer the Lone Star Workforce of the Future Fund grant program to provide grants to public junior colleges, public technical institutes, qualifying general academic teaching institutions, and nonprofit organizations that apply to the commission in the manner prescribed by the commission and satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed by Section 134A.007. The commission shall award the grants on the

1 advice and recommendations of the advisory board.

2 SECTION 3. Section 134A.007, Education Code, is amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 Sec. 134A.007. GRANT ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to  
5 receive a grant under this chapter, a public junior college, public  
6 technical institute, qualifying general academic teaching  
7 institution, or nonprofit organization must:

8 (1) administer one or more performance-based  
9 workforce training programs that:

10 (A) lead to skill development and experiences  
11 required for employment in high demand occupations in at least one  
12 career field identified and listed as a high-growth career field  
13 by:

14 (i) the commission;

15 (ii) the Texas Workforce Investment  
16 Council; or

17 (iii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative  
18 established under Chapter 2308A, Government Code;

19 (B) are developed and provided based on  
20 consultation with and input from employers who are hiring in high  
21 demand occupations;

22 (C) create pathways to employment for program  
23 participants; and

24 (D) are delivered through classroom-based or  
25 online instruction, work-based experiences internships, or  
26 apprenticeships, or through a combination of those methods;

27 (2) demonstrate through third-party validated data

1 successful outcomes in:

2 (A) recruiting local unemployed and  
3 underemployed individuals to participate in the training program or  
4 programs;

5 (B) training individuals with the skills needed  
6 to secure full-time employment paying at least a self-sufficient  
7 wage as determined under Section 2308A.012, Government Code, in the  
8 relevant job field; and

9 (C) placing individuals in employment in high  
10 demand occupations;

11 (3) demonstrate the ability to attract at least 40  
12 percent of the necessary funding for training program operation  
13 from revenue streams other than state government funding; and

14 (4) agree to:

15 (A) collaborate with the commission, corporate  
16 partners, and nonprofit educational partners to determine the  
17 training programs to be provided using grant money;

18 (B) secure support from local businesses to  
19 ensure alignment between training program offerings and in-demand  
20 skills;

21 (C) collaborate with regional employers, public  
22 junior colleges, public technical institutes, qualifying general  
23 academic teaching institutions, or nonprofit organizations to make  
24 available developmental work-based experiences to further enhance  
25 training program participants' career readiness;

26 (D) engage local entities and organizations,  
27 including local workforce development boards and community-based

1 organizations, to assist with identifying and recruiting eligible  
2 training program participants;

3 (E) provide documentation to the commission  
4 describing training program offerings, including information  
5 necessary to verify that the offerings will:

6 (i) provide training that is not exclusive  
7 to a single corporate partner; and

8 (ii) lead to knowledge, skills, and  
9 work-based experiences that are transferable to similar employment  
10 opportunities in high demand occupations offered by other  
11 employers; and

12 (F) comply with any additional grant conditions  
13 prescribed by commission rule, including performance benchmarks  
14 established under Section [134A.008](#) and reporting requirements  
15 established under Section [134A.009](#).

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, 2025.