

By: Gerdes, Gates, Bell of Kaufman, et al.

H.B. No. 2545

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment of the Rural Workforce Training Grant
3 Program.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 302.0039 to read as follows:

10 (b) The commission shall establish and administer the Rural
11 Workforce Training Grant Program for the purpose of providing
12 targeted funding for job-specific workforce training and related
13 services to strengthen the skills, resources, and career
14 opportunities of the rural workforce in this state.

15 (c) Under the program, the commission shall award grants to
16 public, private, or nonprofit entities, including business
17 associations, political subdivisions, local workforce development
18 boards, and educational institutions, that:

1 (d) Grant money awarded to an entity under the program may
2 be used only to cover costs associated with training materials,
3 instructors' fees, participant wraparound expenses, facility fees,
4 administrative costs, and outreach, mentoring, and recruiting
5 costs for the training, apprenticeship, course, or other activity
6 for which the money is awarded.

7 (e) The commission shall require a grant recipient to
8 provide periodic reports regarding the recipient's use of grant
9 money received under the program and related training participant
10 outcomes.

11 (f) The commission may solicit and accept gifts, grants, and
12 donations from any public or private source for purposes of the
13 program.

14 (g) The commission shall adopt rules for the administration
15 of the program.

16 (h) Not later than December 1 of each year, the commission
17 shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
18 of the house of representatives, and the standing committee of each
19 house of the legislature with primary jurisdiction over workforce
20 development matters a report regarding:

21 (1) the grants awarded under the program during the
22 most recent state fiscal year; and

23 (2) the program's effectiveness.

24 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt the
25 rules required under Section 302.0039(g), Labor Code, as added by
26 this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date of this
27 Act.

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1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.