

1-1 By: Huffman, Eckhardt S.B. No. 1620
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 25, 2025; March 10, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Finance;
1-4 April 7, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 15, Nays 0; April 7, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7	COMMITTEE VOTE				
1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Huffman	X			
1-10	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X			
1-11	Alvarado	X			
1-12	Bettencourt	X			
1-13	Campbell	X			
1-14	Creighton	X			
1-15	Flores	X			
1-16	Hall	X			
1-17	Kolkhorst	X			
1-18	Nichols	X			
1-19	Paxton	X			
1-20	Perry	X			
1-21	Schwertner	X			
1-22	West	X			
1-23	Zaffirini	X			

1-24 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 1620 By: Huffman

1-25 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-26 AN ACT

1-27 relating to the establishment of the Texas forensic analyst
1-28 apprenticeship pilot program.
1-29 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:
1-30 SECTION 1. Chapter 72, Government Code, is amended by
1-31 adding Subchapter H to read as follows:
1-32 SUBCHAPTER H. TEXAS FORENSIC ANALYST APPRENTICESHIP PILOT PROGRAM
1-33 Sec. 72.201. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:
1-34 (1) "Accredited crime laboratory" means a crime
1-35 laboratory, as that term is defined by Article 38.35, Code of
1-36 Criminal Procedure, that has been accredited under Article 38.01 of
1-37 that code.
1-38 (2) "Commission" means the Texas Forensic Science
1-39 Commission.
1-40 (3) "Pilot program" means the Texas forensic analyst
1-41 apprenticeship pilot program established under this subchapter.
1-42 Sec. 72.202. TEXAS FORENSIC ANALYST APPRENTICESHIP PILOT
1-43 PROGRAM. (a) The office shall establish the Texas forensic analyst
1-44 apprenticeship pilot program to increase the forensic science
1-45 workforce capacity in this state. The office shall collaborate with
1-46 the commission as necessary to administer the pilot program.
1-47 (b) To implement the pilot program, the office shall enter
1-48 into contracts with:
1-49 (1) general academic teaching institutions, as
1-50 defined by Section 61.003, Education Code, that provide relevant
1-51 training programs in forensic disciplines; and
1-52 (2) each publicly funded accredited crime laboratory
1-53 that is awarded an apprentice position by the commission under
1-54 Section 72.203.
1-55 Sec. 72.203. FORENSIC ANALYST APPRENTICE POSITIONS; RULES.
1-56 (a) In consultation with the office, the commission by rule shall
1-57 adopt eligibility requirements for:
1-58 (1) individuals who may apply for an apprentice
1-59 position under the pilot program; and
1-60 (2) publicly funded accredited crime laboratories

that may apply to sponsor an apprentice under the pilot program.

(b) In establishing the eligibility requirements under Subsection (a), the commission shall prioritize the long-term retention of forensic analysts in accredited crime laboratories in this state.

(c) The commission shall award apprentice positions to individuals and accredited crime laboratories that meet the eligibility requirements established under Subsection (a). The commission shall enter into contracts with the laboratories selected to sponsor apprentices under the pilot program.

(d) The commission shall consult with the Texas Association of Crime Lab Directors to determine the current need for forensic analyst apprentices in each forensic discipline.

Sec. 72.204. EXPIRATION. This subchapter expires September 1, 2030.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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