

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of
3 a pilot program to provide grants for the construction of certain
4 facilities for job training and employment services.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 302, Labor Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 302.015 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 302.015. CONSTRUCTION OF JOB TRAINING AND EMPLOYMENT
9 SERVICES FACILITIES; PILOT GRANT PROGRAM. (a) In this section,
10 "qualified workforce community training center" means an
11 organization that:

12 (1) specializes in the retail sale of donated items;

13 (2) provides job training and employment services to
14 individuals with disabilities or other barriers to employment;

15 (3) uses a majority of its revenues for job training
16 and employment programs that create and foster economic
17 development;

18 (4) maintains at least a 50 percent ratio of employees
19 who have a disability or other barrier to employment;

20 (5) operates in at least three counties, has multiple
21 locations, and is affiliated with a statewide organization; and

22 (6) is exempt from federal taxation under Section
23 501(a), Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described
24 by Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

1 (b) The commission may establish a pilot program under which
2 the commission contracts with the Texas Association of Goodwills
3 for the commission to administer grants to reimburse qualified
4 workforce training centers identified by the Texas Association of
5 Goodwills for costs associated with the construction of new
6 facilities that provide job training or employment services. The
7 contract entered into under this subsection must provide that:

8 (1) the commission receives an administrative
9 overhead fee of one percent of the amount of each grant awarded
10 under the program; and

11 (2) each grant awarded under the program is funded
12 only on:

13 (A) the completion of the facility for which the
14 grant is awarded; and

15 (B) notification from the commission that the
16 contract terms relating to the award of the grant have been
17 satisfied.

18 (c) The total amount of grants awarded under this section
19 may not exceed \$3 million.

20 (d) The commission may adopt rules for the administration of
21 this section.

22 (e) Not later than January 1, 2009, the commission shall
23 report to the legislature regarding the commission's:

24 (1) assessment of the effectiveness of any pilot
25 program in creating and fostering economic development; and

26 (2) recommendation regarding the continuation of that
27 program.

1 (f) This section expires September 1, 2009.

2 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.