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H.B. No. 2994

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sec. 130.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Adult" means a person who:

(A) is 17 years of age and has been awarded a high school diploma or its equivalent; or

(B) is 18 years of age or older, regardless of the person's previous educational experience.

(2) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

(3) "Workforce continuing education" means a program of instruction that:

(A) is designed primarily for adults; and

(B) is intended, on completion by a participant, to prepare the participant to qualify to apply for and accept an employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational category or to bring the participant's knowledge or skills up to date on new developments in a particular occupation or profession.

(4) "Workforce continuing education course" means a

1 course of instruction in workforce continuing education that is  
2 approved by the coordinating board.

3 Sec. 130.302. FORMULA FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE CONTINUING  
4 EDUCATION COURSES. Notwithstanding Section 130.003 or any other  
5 law, contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a  
6 workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior  
7 college shall be included in the contact hours used to determine the  
8 college's proportionate share of state money appropriated and  
9 distributed to public junior colleges under Sections 130.003 and  
10 130.0031, regardless of whether:

11 (1) the course is taken by a student who is not an  
12 adult under Section 130.303; or

13 (2) the college waives all or part of the tuition or  
14 fees for the course under Section 130.304.

15 Sec. 130.303. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HIGH  
16 SCHOOL STUDENTS. A public junior college may enter into an  
17 agreement with a school district, organization, or other person  
18 that operates a high school to offer workforce continuing education  
19 courses to persons enrolled in a high school who are at least 16  
20 years of age on the census date of the applicable course. For  
21 purposes of this section and Section 130.304, a person who is  
22 enrolled in a school that is not formally organized as a high school  
23 is considered to be enrolled in high school.

24 Sec. 130.304. WAIVER OF TUITION AND FEES FOR CERTAIN  
25 WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. A public junior college  
26 may waive all or part of the tuition or fees charged to a student for  
27 a workforce continuing education course if:

1           (1) the student:

2                   (A) is enrolled in high school;

3                   (B) is 16 years of age or older, has had the  
4 disabilities of minority removed, and is not enrolled in secondary  
5 education; or

6                   (C) is under the age of 18 and is incarcerated;

7           (2) all or a significant portion of the college's costs  
8 for facilities, instructor salaries, equipment, and other expenses  
9 for the course are covered by business, industry, or other local  
10 public or private entities; or

11           (3) the course is taught in a federal correctional  
12 facility and the facilities, equipment, supplies, and other  
13 expenses for the course are funded by the federal government.

14           Sec. 130.305. RULES. The coordinating board shall adopt  
15 any rules the coordinating board considers necessary for the  
16 administration of this subchapter. In adopting those rules, the  
17 coordinating board shall use the negotiated rulemaking procedures  
18 under Chapter 2008, Government Code.

19           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.