

1-1 By: Zaffirini S.B. No. 1055
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 25, 2019; March 7, 2019,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources &
1-4 Economic Development; April 23, 2019, reported favorably by the
1-5 following vote: Yeas 11, Nays 0; April 23, 2019, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	<u>Birdwell</u>	X		
1-9	<u>Zaffirini</u>	X		
1-10	<u>Fallon</u>	X		
1-11	<u>Flores</u>	X		
1-12	<u>Hancock</u>	X		
1-13	<u>Hinojosa</u>	X		
1-14	<u>Hughes</u>	X		
1-15	<u>Miles</u>	X		
1-16	<u>Paxton</u>	X		
1-17	<u>Powell</u>	X		
1-18	<u>Rodríguez</u>	X		

1-19 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-20 AN ACT

1-21 relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of
1-22 a workforce diploma pilot program.

1-23 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-24 SECTION 1. Subtitle B, Title 4, Labor Code, is amended by
1-25 adding Chapter 317 to read as follows:

1-26 CHAPTER 317. WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PILOT PROGRAM

1-27 Sec. 317.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

1-28 (1) "Adult" means any individual who is over the age of
1-29 compulsory school attendance prescribed by Section 25.085,
1-30 Education Code.

1-31 (2) "Program" means the workforce diploma pilot
1-32 program established under this chapter.

1-33 Sec. 317.002. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION;
1-34 PURPOSE. The commission, in consultation with the Texas Education
1-35 Agency, shall establish and administer a workforce diploma pilot
1-36 program under which eligible high school diploma-granting entities
1-37 participating in the program may be reimbursed for successfully
1-38 assisting adult students to obtain a high school diploma and
1-39 develop technical career readiness skills and employability.

1-40 Sec. 317.003. REQUEST FOR PROGRAM PROVIDER QUALIFICATIONS.
1-41 Not later than October 15 of each year, the commission shall publish
1-42 a request for qualifications for providers to participate in the
1-43 program.

1-44 Sec. 317.004. PROVIDER ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to
1-45 participate as a provider under the program, a provider must:

1-46 (1) apply to the commission in the manner prescribed
1-47 by commission rule;

1-48 (2) be a public, nonprofit, or private high school
1-49 diploma-granting entity accredited by a regional accrediting body;

1-50 (3) have at least two years of experience providing
1-51 dropout reengagement services to adult students, including
1-52 recruitment, learning plan development, and proactive coaching and
1-53 mentoring, leading to the obtainment of a high school diploma;

1-54 (4) be equipped to:

1-55 (A) provide:

1-56 (i) academic skill intake assessment and
1-57 transcript evaluations;

1-58 (ii) remediation coursework in literacy and
1-59 numeracy;

1-60 (iii) a research-validated academic
1-61 resiliency assessment and intervention;

2-1 (iv) employability skills development
2-2 aligned to employer needs;
2-3 (v) career pathways coursework;
2-4 (vi) preparation for the attainment of
2-5 industry-recognized credentials; and
2-6 (vii) career placement services; and
2-7 (B) develop a learning plan that integrates
2-8 academic requirements and career goals; and
2-9 (5) offer a course catalog that includes all courses
2-10 necessary to meet high school graduation requirements in this
2-11 state.
2-12 Sec. 317.005. PROVIDER APPROVAL; LIST OF APPROVED
2-13 PROVIDERS. (a) Not later than November 15 of each year, the
2-14 commission shall publish a list of providers approved by the
2-15 commission to participate in the program during the next calendar
2-16 year.
2-17 (b) An approved provider maintains approval to participate
2-18 in the program during a subsequent calendar year without reapplying
2-19 to the commission unless the provider is removed from the approved
2-20 provider list as provided by Section 317.008.
2-21 Sec. 317.006. REIMBURSEMENT OF PROGRAM PROVIDERS FOR
2-22 STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT. (a) To the extent money is available for
2-23 that purpose, the commission shall reimburse each approved provider
2-24 participating in the program for the achievement of the following
2-25 milestones by students receiving services from the provider:
2-26 (1) \$250 for the completion of a half credit;
2-27 (2) \$250 for the completion of an employability skills
2-28 certification program equal to at least one Carnegie unit or the
2-29 equivalent;
2-30 (3) \$250 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
2-31 credential requiring not more than 50 hours of training;
2-32 (4) \$500 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
2-33 credential requiring at least 50 but not more than 100 hours of
2-34 training;
2-35 (5) \$750 for the attainment of an industry-recognized
2-36 credential requiring more than 100 hours of training; and
2-37 (6) \$1,000 for the obtainment of a high school
2-38 diploma.
2-39 (b) Not later than the 10th calendar day of each month, an
2-40 approved provider participating in the program shall submit to the
2-41 commission an invoice for the milestones achieved by the provider's
2-42 students during the previous calendar month.
2-43 (c) The commission shall reimburse approved program
2-44 providers in the order in which invoices are received by the
2-45 commission until all funds available for the program are exhausted.
2-46 Sec. 317.007. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than January 15 of
2-47 each year, each approved provider that participated in the program
2-48 during the previous calendar year shall report to the commission
2-49 the following data regarding the provider's students for that year:
2-50 (1) the number of students for which the provider
2-51 received reimbursement under the program;
2-52 (2) the total number of credits earned by the
2-53 students;
2-54 (3) the total number of employability skills
2-55 certification programs completed by the students;
2-56 (4) the total number of industry-recognized
2-57 credentials attained by the students in each of the funding tiers
2-58 described by Sections 317.006(a)(3), (4), and (5); and
2-59 (5) the number of students who obtained a high school
2-60 diploma.
2-61 Sec. 317.008. PROVIDER PERFORMANCE REVIEW. (a) The
2-62 commission by rule shall prescribe minimum performance standards
2-63 for providers participating in the program. The minimum
2-64 performance standards must include:
2-65 (1) a graduation rate of at least 50 percent; and
2-66 (2) a program cost per graduate of \$7,000 or less.
2-67 (b) For purposes of Subsections (a)(1) and (2), the
2-68 commission by rule shall develop formulas to make the appropriate
2-69 calculations. The graduation rate must be calculated one cohort

3-1 year in arrears.

3-2 (c) The commission shall review data from each
3-3 participating approved provider annually to ensure that the
3-4 services offered by the provider are meeting the minimum
3-5 performance standards. If the commission determines that an
3-6 approved provider did not meet the minimum performance standards in
3-7 the previous calendar year, the commission shall place the provider
3-8 on probationary status for the remainder of the current calendar
3-9 year.

3-10 (d) The commission shall remove from the approved provider
3-11 list published under Section 317.005 any provider that does not
3-12 meet the minimum performance standards for two consecutive calendar
3-13 years.

3-14 Sec. 317.009. REPORT. Not later than December 1 of each
3-15 even-numbered year, the commission shall submit to the legislature
3-16 a report on the effectiveness of the program. The commission shall
3-17 include in the report a recommendation regarding whether the
3-18 program should be continued, expanded, or terminated.

3-19 Sec. 317.010. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires September
3-20 1, 2025.

3-21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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