By: Button, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Alvarado) H.B. No. 1755 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 27, 2023; May 1, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Natural Resources & Economic Development: May 2, 2022 1-1 1-2 1-3 Resources & Economic Development; May 9, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 1; May 9, 2023, sent to 1-4 1-5 1-6 printer.)

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COMMITTEE VOTE

1-8		Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-9	Birdwell	Х			
1-10	Zaffirini			Х	
1-11	Alvarado	Х			
1-12	Blanco	Х			
1-13	Hancock	Х			
1-14	Hughes	Х			
1-15	Kolkhorst			Х	
1-16	Miles	Х			
1-17	Sparks		Х		

1-18 1-19

1-26

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED AN ACT

1-20 relating to the creation of the Lone Star Workforce of the Future 1-21 Fund. 1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1**-**23 SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Title 3, Education Code, is amended by adding Chapter 134A to read as follows: 1-24 1-25

CHAPTER 134A. LONE STAR WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE FUND Sec. 134A.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter: (1) "Commission" means the Texa

1-27 Texas Workforce 1-28 Commission. 1-29 (2) "Public junior college" "public technical and

institute" have the meanings assigned by Section 61.003. Sec. 134A.002. PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to: 1-30 1-31 (1) create and sustain a utilization-driven supply of qualified workers for entry-level to mid-level jobs in high demand 1-32 1-33 1-34

occupations in this state; 1-35 (2) address and close the gap between the skills 1-36 needed by workers and the current skills of the available workforce 1-37

in this state; (3) 1-38 increase the interest of current and future Texans to fill the available and emerging jobs in this state that require 1-39 less education than a bachelor's degree but more than a high school 1-40 1-41 diploma; and

(4) strengthen the state's economy by increasing the competitiveness of businesses in this state and the recruitment of 1-42 1-43 businesses to this state. 1-44

1-45 Sec. 134A.003. LONE STAR WORKFORCE OF THE FUTURE FUND. (a) 1-46 commission shall establish and administer the Lone Star The <u>Workfor</u>ce of 1-47 the Future Fund as a dedicated account in the general 1-48 revenue fund.

1-49 The following amounts shall be deposited in the fund: (b) 1-50 (1) any money appropriated by the legislature for the fund for purposes of this chapter; 1-51 1-52 (2) interest earned on the investment of money in the 1-53 fund; and

1-54 (3) gifts, grants, and donations received for the 1-55 fund. 1-56 Sec. 134A.004. ADVISORY BOARD. (a) An advisory board of 1-57 education and workforce stakeholders is created to assist the 1-58 commission in administering this chapter.

1-59 (b) The advisory board is composed of six members who serve 1-60 two-year terms and are appointed as follows: 1-61 (1) one member appointed by the governor;

2-1 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor; 2-4 (3) one member appointed by the Speaker of the house of 2-4 (4) one member appointed by the Texas Higher Education 2-5 (5) one member appointed by the commission; and 2-6 (5) one member appointed by the commission; and 2-7 (6) the chair of the commission, who serves as the 2-8 presiding officer. 2-9 (1) award organisation on awarding 2-11 (2) The advisory board shall meet at least twice each 2-12 sec. 134A.005. FUND USE. Money in the Lone Star Workforce 2-13 file Future Fund may be used by the commission only to: 2-14 (1) award organisation shall available entry-level 2-15 identified by the commission as having available entry-level 2-16 identified by the commission shall available entry-level 2-17 mecommedations of the advisory board. 2-28 by Section 134A.007. GRANT FLICIBILITY. To be eligible to 2-29 prescribed by actions of that advisory board. 2-21 identified and instructure, a public fundor college, public technical institutes, and nonprofit 2-24 by decommedations of the advisory board. 2-25 <	2-1 (2) one member appointed by the lieutenant governor; 2-2 (3) one member appointed by the Greaker of the house of 2-4 (4) one member appointed by the commission; and 2-6 (5) one member appointed by the commission; and 2-7 (6) the chair of the commission, who serves as the 2-8 (5) one member appointed by the commission awarding 2-9 (1) The advisory board shall meet at least twice each 2-10 calendar year or as needed, to make recommendations on awarding 2-11 greants under the shall be used by the commission only for 2-12 canducr the shall meet ab provided by this chapter; and 2-13 (1) award greants as provided by this chapter; and 2-14 (1) award greants as provided by this chapter; and 2-15 identified by the commission as having available entry-level 2-16 year 2-17 workforce of the Future Pund grant program to provide grants to 2-18 sec. 134A.006. LONE STAR WORKFORCE OF THE PUTURE FUND GRANT 2-29 public junior colleges, public technical institutes, and nonprofit 2-20 greanizations that apply to the commission in the manner prescribed 2-21 yet commission and satisfy the eligibility criteria prescribed		H.B. No. 1755
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2-27Sec. 134A.007. GRANT ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to2-28receive a grant under this chapter, a public junior college, public2-29technical institute, or nonprofit organization must:2-30(1) administer one or more performance-based2-31workforce training programs that:2-32(A) lead to skill development and experiences2-33required for employment in high demand occupations in at least one2-34career field identified and listed as a high-growth career field2-35by:2-36(i) the commission;2-37(iii) the Trias Workforce Initiative2-38council; or2-39(iii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative2-40established under Chapter 2308A, Government Code;2-41(B) are developed and provided based on2-42(D) are delivered through classroom-based or2-43(C) create pathways to employment for program2-44(D) are delivered through classroom-based or2-45(2) demonstrate through third-party validated data2-50(A) recruiting local unemployed and2-51(A) recruiting local unemployed and2-52(B) training individuals with the skills needed2-53(C) placing individuals in employment in high2-54(C) placing individuals in employment in high2-55(D) adeconstrate the ability to attract at least 402-56(D) placing individuals in employment in high2-56(A) collaborate with the commission, corporate2-56(A) collaborate with the com	2-27 Sec. 134A.007. GRANT ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible to 2-28 receive a grant under this chapter, a public junior college, public 2-29 (1) administer one or more performance-based 2-30 (1) administer one or more performance-based 2-31 workforce training programs that: 2-32 required for employment in high demand occupations in at least one 2-34 career field identified and listed as a high-growth career field 2-35 (i) the commission; 2-36 (ii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative 2-37 (iii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative 2-38 (iii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative 2-39 (iii) the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative 2-40 established under Chapter 2308A, Government Code; 2-41 (C) create pathways to employment for program 2-44 demand occupations; 2-44 (D) are delivered through classroom-based or 2-45 participants; and 2-46 (D) are delivered through classroom-based or 2-47 (D) are delivered through classroom-based or 2-48 successful outcomes in: 2-59 (2) demonstrate through third-party validated data		
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3-1	(C) collaborate with regional employers, public
3-2	junior colleges, public technical institutes, or nonprofit
3-3	organizations to make available developmental work-based experiences to further enhance training program participants'
3 - 4 3 - 5	career readiness;
3-6	(D) engage local entities and organizations,
3-7	including local workforce development boards and community-based
3-8	organizations, to assist with identifying and recruiting eligible
3-9	training program participants;
3-10 3-11	(E) provide documentation to the commission describing training program offerings, including information
3-12	necessary to verify that the offerings will:
3-13	(i) provide training that is not exclusive
3-14	to a single corporate partner; and
3 - 15 3 - 16	(ii) lead to knowledge, skills, and work-based experiences that are transferable to similar employment
3-10	opportunities in high demand occupations offered by other
3-18	employers; and
3-19	(F) comply with any additional grant conditions
3-20	prescribed by commission rule, including performance benchmarks
3-21 3-22	established under Section 134A.008 and reporting requirements established under Section 134A.009.
3-23	Sec. 134A.008. PERFORMANCE BENCHMARKS. (a) The commission
3-24	by rule shall establish performance benchmarks for entities
3-25	receiving grants under this chapter. The benchmarks must include a
3-26	requirement that an entity facilitate the successful transition of
3 - 27 3 - 28	at least 50 percent of the entity's training program participants from low wage work or unemployment to full-time jobs offering a
3-29	self-sufficient wage as determined under Section 2308A.012,
3-30	Government Code, and the opportunity for career mobility, as
3-31	determined by the commission, within six months of training program
3-32 3-33	completion.
3-33 3-34	(b) The commission by rule shall require reimbursement on a pro rata basis by an entity that does not meet a performance
3-35	benchmark required by this section.
3-36	(c) An entity is not required to comply with a performance
3-37	benchmark required by this section if the entity's compliance is
3-38 3-39	not possible because of an act of God, force majeure, or a similar cause not reasonably within the entity's control.
3-40	Sec. 134A.009. REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. The commission by
3-41	rule shall require each entity receiving a grant under this chapter
3-42	to submit progress reports to the commission at least twice
3 - 43 3 - 44	annually. Each progress report must include the following information relating to a training program funded by the grant:
3-44 3 - 45	(1) the number of participants;
3-46	(2) an update on progress toward performance
3-47	benchmarks;
3 - 48 3 - 49	(3) a description of any key accomplishments achieved, lessons learned, or setbacks or risks incurred by the entity in
3-49	administering the training program;
3-51	(4) an explanation of any material changes to the
3-52	training program's work plan, team, or budget; and
3-53	(5) the amount of grant money spent by the entity
3 - 54 3 - 55	during the reporting period. Sec. 134A.010. GRANT AMOUNT. The amount of a grant awarded
3-56	to an entity under this chapter for a training program may not
3-57	exceed \$15,000 per training program participant.
3-58	Sec. 134A.011. GRANT USE. An entity may use grant money
3 - 59 3 - 60	received under this chapter only for: (1) curriculum development;
3-61	(2) instructor fees and certifications;
3-62	(3) training materials;
3-63	(4) work-related expenses;
3 - 64	(5) work-based experience stipends;
3 - 65 3 - 66	(6) related wraparound services important to help ensure success for training program participants as determined by
3-67	commission rule; and
3-68	(7) administrative costs as determined by commission
3-69	rule, except that the amount used by an entity for that purpose may

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4-1 not exceed 10 percent of the total amount of grant money received by
4-2 the entity.

4-3 Sec. 134A.012. RULES. The commission shall adopt rules as 4-4 necessary to administer this chapter.

4-5 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt rules 4-6 for the administration of Chapter 134A, Education Code, as added by 4-7 this Act, as soon as practicable following the effective date of 4-8 this Act but not later than December 1, 2023.

4-9 SECTION 3. (a) Notwithstanding any other provision of this 4-10 Act, in a state fiscal year, the Texas Workforce Commission is not 4-11 required to implement a provision found in another provision of 4-12 this Act that is a mandatory provision imposing a duty on the 4-13 commission to take an action unless money is specifically 4-14 appropriated to the commission for that fiscal year to carry out 4-15 that duty. The Texas Workforce Commission may implement the 4-16 provision in that fiscal year to the extent other funding is 4-17 available to the commission to do so.

4-18 (b) If, as authorized by Subsection (a) of this section, the 4-19 Texas Workforce Commission does not implement a mandatory provision 4-20 in a state fiscal year, the commission, in its legislative 4-21 appropriations request for the next state fiscal biennium, shall 4-22 certify that fact to the Legislative Budget Board and include a 4-23 written estimate of the cost of implementing the provision in each 4-24 year of that next state fiscal biennium.

4-25 (c) This section expires and any duty suspended by 4-26 Subsection (a) of this section becomes mandatory on September 1, 4-27 2027.

4-28

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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