

1-1 By: Sparks S.B. No. 2448
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed March 13, 2025; March 25, 2025, read
1-3 first time and referred to Committee on Economic Development;
1-4 April 22, 2025, reported adversely, with favorable Committee
1-5 Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 5, Nays 0; April 22, 2025,
1-6 sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			

1-14 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR S.B. No. 2448 By: Sparks

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the establishment of the Rural Workforce Development
1-18 Grant Program.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Chapter 302, Labor Code, is amended by adding
1-21 Subchapter J to read as follows:

1-22 SUBCHAPTER J. RURAL WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT GRANT PROGRAM

1-23 Sec. 302.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

1-24 (1) "Institution of higher education" has the meaning
1-25 assigned by Section 61.003, Education Code.

1-26 (2) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization
1-27 exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a), Internal
1-28 Revenue Code of 1986, as an organization described by Section
1-29 501(c)(3) of that code.

1-30 (3) "Program" means the Rural Workforce Development
1-31 Grant Program established under this subchapter.

1-32 Sec. 302.302. PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT AND ADMINISTRATION.

1-33 The commission, in consultation with the Texas Education Agency and
1-34 the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall establish and
1-35 administer the Rural Workforce Development Grant Program under
1-36 which the commission may award grants to one or more nonprofit
1-37 organizations to provide technical assistance and support to
1-38 institutions of higher education and school districts located in
1-39 rural areas of the state in aligning and delivering workforce
1-40 training and higher education programs to address skills gaps to
1-41 meet urgent workforce demands of rural areas.

1-42 Sec. 302.303. GRANT ELIGIBILITY. To be eligible for a grant
1-43 under the program, a nonprofit organization must:

1-44 (1) apply to the commission in the manner prescribed
1-45 by commission rule;

1-46 (2) demonstrate experience in effectively providing
1-47 technical assistance and support to institutions of higher
1-48 education or school districts located in a rural area of this state
1-49 in aligning and delivering workforce training and higher education
1-50 programs to address skills gaps to meet the area's urgent workforce
1-51 demands; and

1-52 (3) satisfy any other relevant criteria prescribed by
1-53 commission rule.

1-54 Sec. 302.304. GRANT REQUIREMENTS. (a) The commission may
1-55 award a grant to an eligible nonprofit organization under the
1-56 program only if the organization enters into a contract with the
1-57 commission that includes conditions providing the commission with
1-58 sufficient control to ensure the public purpose of improving rural
1-59 workforce development is accomplished and the state receives a
1-60 return benefit.

2-1 (b) Grant money awarded to an eligible nonprofit
2-2 organization under the program may be used by the organization only
2-3 for costs associated with providing technical assistance and
2-4 support to an institution of higher education or school district
2-5 located in a rural area of this state in aligning and delivering
2-6 workforce training and higher education programs to address skills
2-7 gaps to meet the area's urgent workforce demands.

2-8 Sec. 302.305. FUNDING. In addition to any money
2-9 appropriated for the program, the commission may solicit and accept
2-10 gifts, grants, and donations from any public or private source for
2-11 the program.

2-12 Sec. 302.306. RULES; REVIEW. The commission shall:
2-13 (1) adopt rules for the administration of this
2-14 subchapter; and

2-15 (2) periodically verify that grant money awarded to a
2-16 nonprofit organization under the program is being used
2-17 appropriately.

2-18 Sec. 302.307. ANNUAL REPORT. Not later than December 1 of
2-19 each year, the commission shall submit to the governor, the
2-20 lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives,
2-21 and each standing committee of the legislature with primary
2-22 jurisdiction over workforce development a report regarding:

2-23 (1) any grants awarded under the program during the
2-24 most recent state fiscal year; and

2-25 (2) the program's effectiveness.

2-26 SECTION 2. The Texas Workforce Commission shall adopt the
2-27 rules required under Subchapter J, Chapter 302, Labor Code, as
2-28 added by this Act, as soon as practicable after the effective date
2-29 of this Act.

2-30 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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