

By: Lucio III

H.B. No. 1700

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of
3 a career and technical education workforce specialist pilot
4 program.

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 302.0055 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 302.0055. CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION WORKFORCE
9 SPECIALIST PILOT PROGRAM. (a) In this section:

10 (1) "Career school or college" has the meaning
11 assigned by Section 132.001, Education Code.

12 (2) "Public junior college," "public state college,"
13 and "public technical institute" have the meanings assigned by
14 Section 61.003, Education Code.

15 (b) The commission, in consultation with the Texas
16 Education Agency, shall establish and implement a career and
17 technical education workforce specialist pilot program under which
18 workforce development specialists provide career services to
19 students at public high schools in designated regions of this state
20 for the purpose of directing those students toward high-demand,
21 skilled occupations experiencing existing or projected workforce
22 shortages in this state.

23 (c) The commission, in consultation with the Texas
24 Education Agency, shall designate three regions of this state, and

1 the public high schools in each of those regions, to receive
2 services under the pilot program and assign at least one workforce
3 development specialist to provide services in each region. The
4 selected regions must include at least one urban area and one rural
5 area.

6 (d) Career services provided under the pilot program must
7 include the provision of information, guidance, and counseling
8 regarding:

9 (1) high-demand, skilled occupations in this state,
10 including middle skill jobs; and

11 (2) educational and training opportunities for those
12 occupations, including:

13 (A) opportunities offered by employers, public
14 junior colleges, public state colleges, or public technical
15 institutes; and

16 (B) with respect to high-demand occupations in
17 the building trade, any:

18 (i) related courses of instruction offered
19 by career schools or colleges; or

20 (ii) available apprenticeships.

21 (e) The commission may adopt rules as necessary for the
22 administration of this section.

23 (f) Not later than January 1, 2021, the commission shall
24 report to the legislature regarding the commission's:

25 (1) assessment of the effectiveness of the pilot
26 program in directing students toward employment in high-demand,
27 skilled occupations; and

1 (2) recommendations for improving the pilot program
2 and expanding the pilot program statewide.

3 (g) This section expires September 1, 2021.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2017.