



STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE January 25, 2017

Adult Education

[HB 852](#) – Rep. Parker (companion [SB 276](#), Sen. Watson)

Relating to adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program requirements. Eliminates the cap on the number of individuals served by adult education providers.

Status: Filed

Workforce Development, Certification & Alignment

[HB 374](#) – Rep.'s Johnson, Jarvis

Relating to the requirement that the Texas Workforce Commission provide certain employment information for secondary school students. Would require TWC to add in quarterly reports to TEA data on career and technical education partnership opportunities with business and industry; and professional development opportunities for teachers and learning opportunities for students through industry mentorships, internships, summer programs, after-school programs, and career-based student leadership opportunities

Status: Filed

[HB 802](#) – Rep. Murphy

Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to certain postsecondary education and career opportunity information. An electronic common admission application form adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the comparative postsecondary education and career opportunity information maintained by the Texas Education Agency on the agency's Internet website.

Status: Filed

[SB 482](#) – Sen. Miles

Relating to the creation of a program to assist foster care youth and former foster care youth in accessing higher education, career information, and skills certifications. Would require Department of Family and Protective Services to collaborate with local workforce development boards and related workforce entities to create a program that assists foster care youth and former foster care youth in obtaining a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate; and industry certifications that are necessary for occupations that are in high demand.

[SB 497](#) – Sen. Uresti

Relating to the creation of an office of workforce development and analytics in the Department of Family and Protective Services. Would require the department to create an office of workforce development and analytics to provide workforce support services, oversee workforce recruitment and training, and perform data analytics for the department. **Status: Filed**

Career and Technical Education

[HB 136](#) – Rep. Bell

Relating to inclusion of career and technology education and workforce training to the mission of public education. Would amend the definition of a well-balanced curriculum in the Education Code to add success in a variety of postsecondary activities, including employment, workforce training, and enrollment in institutions of higher education. The bill also would add the objective for TEA to assist school districts and charter schools in providing career and technology education and effective workforce training opportunities to students.

Status: Filed

[HB 380](#) - Rep. Huberty (companion [HB 639](#), Rep. Charles Anderson)

Relating to authorizing the purchase of certain insurance coverage by public school districts for the benefit of businesses and students participating in career or technology training programs and providing for immunity from liability of certain public school students participating in career or technology programs.

Status: Filed

[HB 395](#) – Rep. Bell

Relating to the career and technology education allotment and the essential knowledge and skills of the career and technology education and technology applications curriculums.

Status: Filed

[SB 154](#) – Sen. Hinojosa

Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of a career and technical education workforce specialist pilot program. Would establish pilot program by TWC under which workforce development specialists would provide career services to students at public high schools in three designated regions of this state for directing those students toward high-demand, skilled occupations experiencing existing or projected workforce shortages in this state.

Status: Filed

Economic Development

[SB 6](#) – Sen. Kolkhorst

Relating to regulations and policies for entering or using a bathroom or changing facility. Would require transgender people to use bathrooms in public schools, government buildings and public universities based on “biological sex.”

Status: Referred to Senate State Affairs

[HB 108](#) – Rep. Alvarado

Relating to the creation of the Recruit Texas Program to facilitate the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering complex or high-skilled employment opportunities. Bill would create the Recruit Texas program which would allow TWC to provide funds to community and technical colleges for things such as rapid curriculum development to employers who are looking to expand or move to Texas.

Status: Filed

Higher Education

[HB 393](#) – Rep. Strickland (similar bills: [HB 753](#), Rep. Keough; [HB 767](#), Rep. Fallon)

Relating to the determination of resident status of students by public institutions of higher education. Would abolish 2001 state law allowing noncitizens, including some undocumented immigrants, to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges if they can prove they've been Texas residents for at least three years and graduated from a Texas high school or received a GED. They must also sign an affidavit promising to pursue a path to permanent legal status if one becomes available.

Status: Filed

Apprenticeships/Internships

[HB 595](#) – Rep. Workman (companion [SB 518](#), Sen. Miles)

Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that employ certain students in certain paid internship or similar programs. Would establish a \$1,000 franchise tax credit for taxable entity for each eligible student who completes an eligible internship program offered by the taxable entity.

Status: Filed

[HB 1127](#) – Rep. Raymond

Relating to a franchise tax credit pilot program for taxable entities that employ certain apprentices.

Status: Filed

Pre-K Education

[SB 484](#) – Sen. Miles

Relating to the availability of free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

Status: Filed

[SB 35](#) – Sen. Zaffirini (companion [HB 196](#), Rep. Mary González)

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Would expand the number children eligible for free full-day pre-kindergarten programs.

Status: Referred to Senate Education Committee

[HB 710](#) – Rep. Wu

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Would expand the definition under this section of the Education Code of eligible public education programs from half-day to full-day pre-kindergarten.

Status: Filed

Primary Education

[HB 194](#) – Rep. Bernal

Relating to providing for endorsements for public high school students enrolled in special education programs. Defines the criteria by which a student who is enrolled in a special education program may earn an endorsement on the student's transcript.

Status: Filed

[HB 729](#) – Rep. Bohac

Relating to instruction in positive character traits in public schools. Would require the State Board of Education to integrate positive character traits into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12, including courage; trustworthiness, integrity, respect and courtesy, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

Status: Filed

[HB 1195](#) – Rep. Swanson

Relating to inclusion of a civics test in the graduation requirements for public high school students.

Status: Filed

[HB 713](#) – Rep. Wu (companion: [SB 160](#), Sen. Rodríguez; [HB 363](#), Rep. Huberty; [SB 214](#), Sen. Menéndez)

Relating to a prohibition of a monitoring system performance indicator based on the number or percentage of students receiving special education services. Would prohibit the TEA from adopting or implementing a performance indicator in any agency monitoring system that evaluates the total number of students or the percentage of enrolled students of a school district or open-enrollment charter school who receive special education services.

Status: Filed

TANF

[HB 436](#) – Rep. Ken King (similar: [HB 775](#), Rep. Fallon; [SB 268](#), Sen. Nelson)

Relating to the drug testing of certain persons seeking benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Would require adult and minor parent applicants for financial assistance benefits to submit to a marijuana and controlled substance use screening assessment.

Status: Filed

Veterans Affairs

[HB 257](#) - Rep. Hernandez

Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the transition from military service to employment. Would require TWC to submit to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the house of representatives, and chairs of the legislative committees with appropriate jurisdiction a report that: identifies the five most common military occupational specialties of service members who are transitioning from military service to employment; the five occupations for which the military occupational specialties best offer transferable skills that meet the needs of employers; and any industry-based certifications that align with the military occupational specialties.

[HB 827](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to a database for prospective employers to qualify veterans' military service experience and employment qualifications. Would require TWC to develop and maintain a web-based searchable database through which prospective employers may qualify a veteran 's military service experience and employment qualifications related to specific skills.

Status: Filed

[HB 1192](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to the expansion of the College Credit for Heroes program to lower-division public institutions of higher education offering degrees in certain fields.

Status: Filed

Workforce Training

[HB 518](#) – Rep. Darby (companion [SB 275](#), Sen. Watson)

Relating to the retention and use of sales tax revenue collected by certain retailers to provide job training and placement services to certain persons.

Status: Filed

[SB 234](#) – Sen. Menendez

Relating to a prohibition against the use by a career school or college of certain advertising designed to mislead or deceive prospective students.

Status: Filed