STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE
March 20, 2017

*Bills added since last Update denoted in red*

**Workforce Development, Certification & Alignment**

**HB 374** – Rep.’s Johnson, Jarvis (companion **SB 2105**, Sen. Miles)
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:** Referred to Economic & Small Business Development

Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to certain employment data relating to fields of study. An electronic common admission application form adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the Texas Consumer Resource for Education and Workforce Statistics ("Texas CREWS") report on gainful employment.

**Status:** HB 378 Referred to Higher Education; HB 802 referred to Higher Education

**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:** Referred to Higher Education

**SB 482** – Sen. Miles (companion **HB 1640**, Rep. Vo)
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.

**Status:** Referred to Health & Human Services

**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:** Recommended for local & uncontested calendar
Adult Education

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: SB 276 Referred to Education; HB 852 Referred to Public Education*

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; considered in public hearing*

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: Referred to Public Education; HB 639 considered in public hearing on 3/14/2017*

**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: Referred to Public Education; Considered in public hearing on 3/7/2017*

**HB 2729** – Rep. Lucio III
Relating to an inventory of credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program. Would require TWC and THECB to jointly develop and post on their respective Internet websites an inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program and that are aligned to state and regional workforce needs, and serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs.

*Status: Filed*

**HB 2730** – Rep. Lucio III
Relating to the authority of the commissioner of education to create career and technical credentials and certificates that may be earned through a career and technology education program and to a study to identify unmet needs in career and technology education programs.

*Status: Filed*

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: Referred to Education*
Apprenticeships/Internships

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; SB 518 Referred to Finance; HB 595 Referred to Ways & Means, scheduled for public hearing on 3/22/2017

HB 1127 – Rep. Raymond
Relating to a franchise tax credit pilot program for taxable entities that employ certain apprentices.

Status: Referred to Ways & Means; Scheduled for public hearing on 3/22/2017

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

Status: Filed

SB 1097 – Sen. Lucio
Relating to funding for apprenticeship training programs through a lottery game. Would create a new lottery game to benefit apprenticeship training programs.

Status: Referred to Finance

SB 574 – Sen. Miles
Relating to the expansion of applied workforce learning opportunities in this state, including through the establishment of the Texas Industry Internship Challenge. Would require TWC, TEA and THECB to develop strategies to significantly increase the number of, and participation by students in, applied workforce learning opportunities, including paid internships, externships, and apprenticeships; and to facilitate the uniform award by high schools and public or private institutions of higher education of academic credit to students for the successful completion of those opportunities.

Status: Referred to Senate Education

Pre-K Education

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: Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing on 3/14/2017

HB 2255 – Rep. Ken King
Relating to student eligibility for free high quality prekindergarten programs and state financial support for each school district that elects to provide a full-day prekindergarten program. Would eliminate restrictions on the number of children that must be provided pre-k classes and allows the provision of full-day pre-k.

Status: Referred to Public Education

SB 484 – Sen. Miles
Relating to the availability of free prekindergarten programs in public schools.

Status: Referred to Education

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

Status: SB 35 Referred to Senate Education Committee; HB 196 Referred to House Public Education
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: Referred to Public Education

Relating to use of compensatory education allotment funding to provide assistance to students at risk of dropping out of school who are pregnant or who are parents. Would allow funds to be used for child-care services expenses and costs associated with life skills programs for students at risk of dropping out of school.
Status: Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing and reported favorably without amendments

HB 588 – Rep. Bohac
Relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development for public school teachers.
Status: Referred to Public Education

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: SB 160 Referred to Education; SB 214 Referred to Education; HB 713 Referred to Public Education; HB 363 Referred to Public Education

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: Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing on 3/14/2017

HB 1195 – Rep. Swanson
Relating to inclusion of a civics test in the graduation requirements for public high school students.
Status: Referred to Public Education

Relating to the development of a statewide online education and career advising tool and to a study and report on certain courses offered for college credit to public school students. Would require TEA to implement a statewide online education and career advising tool, including an individualized career pathway generator, to assist children in making informed, meaningful, and attainable postsecondary and career plans. It also would mandate a joint TEA/THECB study on courses offered for college credit in the state.
Status: Filed; SB 1271 Referred to Education

Relating to the establishment of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and to the repeal of the tech-prep program. Would establish a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program for students who wish to participate in a work-based education program.
Status: Referred to Senate Education Committee; Considered in Public Hearing; HB 1237 Referred to Public Education; HB 1842 Referred to Public Education

**SB 191 – Sen. Garcia**
Relating to the ability of a nonexempt employee to participate in certain academic, disciplinary, college and career readiness, and developmental activities of the employee’s child or grandchild.

Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development

**Higher Education**

**HB 42 – Rep. Romero, Jr.**
Relating to a franchise tax credit for certain taxable entities offering postsecondary tuition assistance.

Status: Referred to Ways & Means; considered in public hearing

Relating to the determination of resident status of students by public institutions of higher education. Would abolish 2001 state law allowing noncitzens, 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: HB 393 Referred to State Affairs; HB 753 Referred to Higher Education; HB 767 Referred to Higher Education

**HB 1212 – Rep. Phillips**
Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

Status: Referred to Higher Education

**HB 1638 – Rep. Guillen**
Relating to statewide goals for dual credit programs provided by school districts. Bill is intended to increase quality and consistency among dual credit programs by requiring TEA and THECB to create joint statewide goals for academic dual credit programs and requiring high schools and postsecondary institutions to enter into Memoranda of Understanding for dual credit programs that align with new TEA/THECB joint statewide goals.

Status: Referred to Public Education

**HB 2994 – Rep. Ashby**
Relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges. H.B. 2994 seeks to provide the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, as well as public junior colleges in Texas, guidance on (1) how to define a workforce continuing education course, (2) who qualifies as an eligible student for reimbursement of contact hours in a workforce continuing education course, and (3) allows the college to waive all tuition and fees for a student in a workforce continuing education course in certain circumstances.

Status: Filed

**HB 3397 – Rep. Romero, Jr.**
Relating to formula funding for continuing workforce education courses offered by public junior colleges. Would require THECB to include in funding formulas the base funding amounts for continuing education workforce courses offered by public junior colleges for which credit toward a certificate or associate’s degree is not awarded, including certifications and licenses, or employment in specific high-demand occupations.

Status: Referred to Higher Education
Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs. Would add nursing baccalaureate degree programs.
Status: Referred to Higher Education

SB 645 – Sen. Watson (companion HB 1828, rep. Howard)
Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.
Status: SB 645 Referred to Higher Education

SB 719 – Sen. Zaffirini
Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to collect and study data on the participation of persons with intellectual disabilities in workforce education programs. Would include in THECB’s requirement to collect and maintain data relating to the participation of persons with IDD workforce continuing education programs that are eligible for funding through the state.
Status: Recommended for Local & Uncontested Calendar

SB 802 – Sen. Seliger
Relating to a study and report regarding best practices in the provision of dual credit courses by public institutions of higher education and the transfer of course credit between those institutions. Would require THECB to conduct a study to identify best practices in ensuring that dual credit courses provided by an institution of higher education and courses transferred to an institution of higher education for course credit apply toward a degree program at the institution. The study would include an evaluation of articulation agreements between school districts and higher education institutions.
Status: Referred to Higher Education; considered in public hearing; Recommended for Local & Uncontested Calendar

SB 1091 – Sen. Seliger
Relating to limitations on courses that may be offered for dual credit by school districts and public institutions of higher education. Intended to help ensure that dual credit courses completed by high school students transfer to a general academic institution and apply towards their degree by prohibiting institutions of higher education from offering any course outside of the core curriculum, career and technical education, or foreign language as a dual credit course.
Status: Referred to Higher Education; considered in public hearing; Recommended for local & uncontested calendar

SB 1746 – Sen. Hinojosa
Relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges. States that contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior college shall be included in the contact hours used to determine the college’s proportionate share of state money appropriated and distributed to public junior colleges. The bill also defines the eligibility of high school students for continuing education courses.
Status: Filed

Economic Development

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: Referred to Economic & Small Business Development; Scheduled for public hearing on 3/23/2017
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: Passed by Senate

SB 634 – Sen. Estes
Relating to reporting requirements for certain skills development fund workforce training program providers. Would require public community colleges and technical schools to refund to the comptroller any state funds if they fail to submit a report required by this section.
Status: Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development

Veterans Affairs

HB 92 – Rep. Guillen
Relating to the entitlement of spouses of certain veterans with disabilities to a veteran’s employment preference. Would add the spouse of a veteran with a disability who has a total disability rating based either on having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or on individual unemployability to those who are qualified for veteran’s employment preference.
Status: Filed; scheduled for public hearing on 3/23/2017

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.
Status: Referred to Defense & Veterans’ Affairs; considered in public hearing

HB 493 – Rep. Perez
Relating to reporting requirements for the College Credit for Heroes program. Would require TWC to add to its annual report to the legislature and governor data on the number of academic or workforce education semester credit hours awarded under the program and applied toward a degree or certification program at an institution of higher education during the most recent academic year.
Status: Referred to Higher Education

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; Referred to Defense & Veterans’ Affairs; considered in public hearing

HB 1007 – Rep. Alonzo
Relating to the establishment of veterans resource centers at certain institutions of higher education.
Status: Referred to Higher Education

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: Referred to Higher Education
**HB 1230** – Rep. Blanco  
Relating to franchise tax credits for businesses that employ veterans.  
**Status:** Referred to Ways & Means

Relating to information regarding private employers who have veteran's employment preference policies. Would require TWC to make available on its website a list of each private employer who has provided notice that the employer has adopted a veteran’s employment preference policy.  
**Status:** HB 1803 Referred to Defense & Veterans’ Affairs; Filed; SB 588 Referred to Veteran Affairs & Border Security, considered in public hearing

**HB 2673** – Rep. Blanco  
Relating to the development of transferable degree or certificate program curricula for which qualified veterans or military service members may be awarded course credit based on military service.  
**Status:** Filed

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**Workforce Training**

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:** HB 518 referred to Ways & Means, considered in public hearing and reported favorably; SB 275 referred to Finance

**HB 1965** – Rep. Dutton  
Relating to liability insurance for career schools and colleges. Would prohibit the approval of the application of a career school or college for a certificate of approval or for the renewal of a certificate of approval unless the career school or college maintains a liability insurance policy.  
**Status:** Referred to Higher Education

**HB 3349** – Rep. Gervin-Hawkins  
Relating to creating an abbreviated certification program and a certificate for trade and industrial workforce training. Would create an abbreviated educator preparation program for a person seeking certification in trade and industrial workforce training who has 10 years of experience and holds with respect to that occupation a current license, certificate, or registration. The bill also would establish a trade and industrial workforce training certificate that may be obtained through an abbreviated educator preparation program.  
**Status:** Filed

Relating to the application for funding for certain workforce development programs. Would require TWC to adopt a plan to allow nonprofit service providers to apply for funding directly from the commission “if the local workforce development board is nonresponsive.” The plan adopted under this section may include an application for funding for job training programs funded under the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act, postsecondary vocational and technical job training programs that are not part of approved courses or programs that lead to licensing, certification, or an associate degree, adult education programs, employment services programs, support services, and employment and training programs for recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance.  
**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:** Referred to Veterans’ Affairs & Border Security
Relating to the consideration by certain employers of the consumer credit reports of certain employees and applicants for employment; providing administrative penalties.
*Status: Referred to Business & Industry; considered in public hearing*

HB 334 – Rep. Collier
Relating to the consideration by employers of the consumer credit reports or other credit information of employees and applicants for employment; providing civil and administrative penalties.
*Status: Referred to Business & Industry*

SB 117 – Sen. Huffines
Relating to the Internet broadcast of open meetings of the Texas Workforce Commission. Commission shall broadcast over the Internet. Would require TWC to broadcast over the Internet live video and audio of each open meeting of the commission.
*Status: Referred to Business & Commerce*

Relating to the acceptance or expenditure of federal funds by a political subdivision.
*Status: Referred to Finance*

SB 477 – Sen. Lucio
Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding certain employee issues.
*Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development*

Child Care

Relating to application and license fees for certain child-care facilities and child-placing agencies. Would set out the fees for to be charged by the Department of Family and Protective Services for licenses to operate a child-care facility or child-placing agency.
*Status: Referred to Human Services*

HB 751 – Rep. Farrar
Relating to state agency authority to establish child-care subsidy programs. Would allow state agencies to establish a child-care subsidy program to assist the agency’s lower income employees with their child-care costs.
*Status: Referred to Appropriations*

SB 940 – Sen. Campbell (Companion HB 3323, Rep.’s Deshotel, Huberty)
Relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program. Bill is intended to provide parents, policymakers, and educators with clearer information about the quality of subsidized child care paid with state and federal funds. It is also intended to allow for better coordination of the taxpayer-funded subsidized child care program at the Texas Workforce Commission and public school pre-kindergarten.
*Status: Referred to Health & Human Services*

Ex-Offenders

HB 86 – Rep. Guillen
Relating to providing a sales and use tax refund or franchise tax credit for businesses that employ former offenders.
*Status: Referred to Ways & Means*
**HB 91 – Rep. White**
Relating to a review of occupational licensing requirements related to an applicant's criminal history. Each licensing authority shall, for each license issued by the authority that has an eligibility requirement related to an applicant's criminal history, review the requirement and make a recommendation regarding whether the requirement should be retained, modified, or repealed.

*Status: Referred to Licensing & Administrative Procedures*

**HB 548 – Rep. Deshotel**
Relating to the consideration of criminal history record information regarding applicants for employment. Would prohibit an employer from including a question regarding an applicant's criminal history record information on an initial employment application form under certain conditions.

*Status: Referred to Business & Industry; scheduled for public hearing on 3/20/2017*

**HB 577 – Rep. Workman (Companion SB 1262, Sen.’s Huffman, Campbell)**
Relating to the authority of a political subdivision to adopt or enforce certain regulations regarding whether a private employer may obtain or consider an employment applicant's or employee's criminal history record information.

*Status: Referred to Business & Industry; scheduled for public hearing on 3/20/2017*

**HB 893 – Rep. Raymond**
Relating to the dissemination of criminal history record information by the Department of Public Safety concerning certain intoxication offenses.

*Status: Referred to Homeland Security & Public Safety; considered in public hearing*

Relating to the consideration of criminal history record information of applicants for public employment or an occupational license.

*Status: Filed*

Relating to the creation of a task force to identify opportunities for academic credit and industry recognition for inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

*Status: Referred to Criminal Justice*

**TANF**

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 marihuana and controlled substance use screening assessment.

*Status: SB 268 Referred to Health & Human Services; HB 436 Referred to Human Services; HB 775 Referred to Human Services*

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

Relating to a study to evaluate by region training and employment opportunities in this state for individuals with an intellectual disability. Would require the Health and Human Services Commission in conjunction with the Texas Workforce Commission to conduct a study regarding occupational training programs available in this state for individuals with an intellectual disability.

*Status: Filed*
HB 3929 – Rep. Lucio III (Companion SB 1111)
Relating to the employment of certain persons with disabilities. States that an individual with a disability qualifies for an employment preference if the individual is eligible to receive supported employment services from the commission or through a Section 1915(c) Medicaid waiver program. Also, an individual with a disability who qualifies for an employment preference under Section 621.0002 is entitled to a preference in employment with a state agency or political subdivision over other applicants for the same position who do not have a greater qualification.

Status: Filed; SB 1111 referred to Business & Commerce

Please direct any suggestions or questions to Greg Vaughn, greg.vaughn@tawb.org