



STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

April 17, 2017

**Actions 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, considered in public hearing; SB 2105 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development, considered in public hearing*

HB 378 – Rep. s Oliverson/Raney; companions **HB 802**, Rep. Murphy; **SB 1277**, Sen. Larry Taylor

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, considered in public hearing; HB 802 referred to Higher Education; SB 1277 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. S.B. 497 elevates the current workforce development division into an Office of Data Analytics. The Office of Data Analytics will, among other things, set performance metrics and monitor management trends, review retention initiatives, and handle employee complaints. The office will report directly to the deputy commissioner of the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS).

Status: *Passed Senate; referred to House*

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: *SB 276 Referred to Education, considered in public hearing, Recommended for local & uncontested calendar; HB 852 Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing; Reported favorably as substituted*

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: *Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing; Reported favorably w/o amendment(s); Committee report sent to Calendars*

[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. The bill would permit the board of trustees of a school district to purchase health, liability, or automobile insurance coverage for the benefit of businesses or students participating in career or technology training programs.

Status: *Referred to Public Education; HB 639 considered in public hearing, Reported favorably as substituted*

[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*

[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: *Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing, Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)*

[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: *Referred to Public Education*

[SB 154](#) – Sen. Hinojosa (companion [HB 1700](#), Rep. 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: *SB 154 Referred to Education; HB 1700 Referred to Economic & Small Business Development*

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. Expands the eligible students to now include private schools, home schools as well as community colleges. TWC would create rules to determine what type of employers would be eligible to receive the tax credit as well as which type of internships and apprenticeships would be eligible.

Status: *Filed; SB 518 Referred to Finance, Placed on intent calendar; HB 595 Referred to Ways & Means, considered in public hearing*

[HB 1127](#) – Rep. Raymond

Relating to a franchise tax credit pilot program for taxable entities that employ certain apprentices. Would create a franchise tax credit to businesses who participate in apprenticeship programs located within a county on the Mexico Border for the employer to receive a credit. The bill would set limits for total franchise tax credits an employer would receive.

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

[HB 4055](#) – Rep. Murphy (Companion [SB 1468](#), Sen. Creighton)

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 1468 referred to Finance*

[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*

[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

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

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: Referred to Public Education; scheduled for public hearing 4/4/2017

[HB 223](#) – Rep. Howard

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

[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: SB 160 Referred to Education, considered in public hearing, Recommended for local & uncontested calendar; SB 214 Referred to Education; HB 713 Referred to Public Education, Recommended to be sent to Local & Consent, Reported favorably as substituted; 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

[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*

[HB 3706](#) – Rep. Lucio III

Relating to certain alternative education programs designed to address workforce development needs for at risk students. The bill would amend the Education Code to allow existing private or public community-based dropout recovery programs to be offered at a campus, or through the use of an online program that leads to a high school diploma and prepares the student to enter the workforce.

Status: *Referred to Public Education, scheduled for public hearing on 4/18/17*

[HB 3730](#) – Rep. Jarvis Johnson; (companion [SB 1271](#), Sen. Miles)

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*

[SB 22](#) – Sen. Taylor (companion [HB 1237](#), Lucio III; [HB 1842](#), Rep. Giddings)

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: *SB 22 Passed by Senate; referred to House; HB 1237 Referred to Public Education; HB 1842 Referred to Public Education; placed on intent calendar*

[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*

[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: *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 (companion [SB 1903](#), Sen. West)

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, considered in public hearing; SB 1903 referred to Education, considered in public hearing

[HB 2431](#) – Rep. Deshotel

Relating to the participation of public state colleges in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. Would add public state colleges to the list of institutions to be eligible recipients of JET funding.

Status: Referred to Higher Education, considered in public hearing

[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: Referred to Higher Education; Considered in public hearing; Committee report sent to Calendars

[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

[SB 352](#) – Sen. Watson (companion [HB 1580](#), Rep. Howard)

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; HB 1580 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; HB 1828 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; Placed on 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: *Passed by Senate; referred to House*

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; Placed on 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: *Referred to Higher Education*

SB 2086 – Sen. West

Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer of students and course credit within the public higher education system. Would require THECB to divide the state into regions for the purpose of establishing a regional consortium among the institutions of higher education located within each region to facilitate the transfer of students and the transfer of course credit between institutions within the region.

Status: *Referred to Higher Education; scheduled for public hearing 4/5/17*

SB 2122 – Sen. West

Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to develop and implement transfer policy for lower division courses among Texas public institutions of higher education. Would establish a 39-semester credit hour core curriculum that are general education courses, broad in scope, and not narrowly focused on knowledge and competencies specific to a particular occupation or profession, and require THECB to develop and implement policy regarding the transferability of these core curriculum course credits among institutions of higher education.

Status: *Referred to Higher Education, scheduled for public hearing 4/5/17*

Economic Development

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: *Referred to Economic & Small Business Development; considered in public hearing*

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; referred to House*

[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; Reported favorably w/o amendments; Placed on local & uncontested calendar

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; considered in public hearing; Reported favorably w/o amendment(s); Comm. report sent to Local & Consent Calendar

[HB 257](#)- Rep. Hernandez (companion [SB 1457](#), Sen. Buckingham)

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: HB 257 Passed by House; SB 1457 referred to Vet Affairs & Border Security, 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

[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. The bill requires the database to allow conversion of a veteran's military service experience into the approximate equivalent civilian employment experience and skills that the veteran possesses by virtue of that service and prohibits the database from collecting, retrieving, storing, or using any personally identifying information of a veteran. The bill authorizes the TWC to adopt rules to implement the bill's provisions.

Status: Passed by House

[HB 1007](#) – Rep. Alonzo

Relating to the establishment of veterans resource centers at certain institutions of higher education.

Status: Referred to Higher Education

[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: Referred to Higher Education

[HB 1230](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to franchise tax credits for businesses that employ veterans.

Status: *Referred to Ways & Means*

[HB 1803](#) – Rep. Blanco (companion [SB 588](#), Sen. Lucio)

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; considered in public hearing; SB 588 Referred to Veteran Affairs & Border Security, considered in public hearing, Placed on intent calendar*

[HB 2673](#) – Rep. Blanco (companion [SB 1845](#), Sen. Campbell)

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: *HB 2673 Referred to Higher Education; SB 1845 referred to Vet Affairs & Border Security; scheduled for public hearing on 4/19/17*

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. HB 518 seeks to provide the retention and use of sales tax revenue collected by certain nonprofit retailers that sell donated goods and that have centers to provide job training and placement services to people with disabilities and other barriers to employment.

Status: *HB 518 referred to Ways & Means, Placed on General State Calendar; SB 275 referred to Finance, considered in public hearing, Reported favorably as substituted*

[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: *Referred to Public Education; considered in public hearing*

[HB 3554](#) – Rep. Gervin-Hawkins

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: *Referred to Economic & Small Business Development*

[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*

TWC/Workforce Board Operations

[HB 317](#) – Rep. Canales

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; Reported favorably as substituted, Committee report sent to Calendars*

[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*

[SB 446](#) – Sen. Burton (companion [HB 135](#), Rep. Krause)

Relating to the acceptance or expenditure of federal funds by a political subdivision. Would require a political subdivision to directly report any federal grant award to the Texas comptroller and require that the comptroller compile a database of these award reports by political subdivisions. Three major concerns state lawmakers possess regarding direct federal grant awards to local governments are the incentive toward additional local spending or debt generated by their existence, the impairment to state sovereignty represented by conditions of the grant, and the massive size of the national debt. Supporters of this legislation contend that the legislature and the public must be made aware of federal grant awards to local governments on the grounds that such grant programs reflect the full cost footprint of local operations. Opponents of the bill cite the mandate as an unfunded reporting requirement placed on local entities.

Status: *Referred to Finance; scheduled for public hearing 4/3/2017; HB 135 referred to Appropriations*

[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

[HB 740](#) – Rep. Burkett

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; considered in public hearing, Reported favorably as substituted*

[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, considered in public hearing; HB 3323 referred to Economic & Small Business Development, considered in public hearing

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, scheduled for public hearing on 4/17/17

[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. The bill would prohibit a political subdivision of the state from adopting or enforcing any ordinance that prohibits, limits, or regulates a private employer's ability to request or consider the criminal history record of an applicant or employee.

Status: Referred to Business & Industry; considered in public hearing, Reported favorably as substituted; HB 1262 referred to Business & Commerce

[HB 893](#) – Rep. Raymond

Relating to the dissemination of criminal history record information by the Department of Public Safety concerning certain intoxication offenses. Expands access to public information on criminal history of persons convicted of public intoxication offenses.

Status: Referred to Homeland Security & Public Safety; considered in public hearing; Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)

[HB 1981](#) – Rep. Eric Johnson

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

Status: Referred to Business & Industry

[SB 677](#) – Sen. Miles (companion [HB 553](#), Rep. White)

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. Interested parties contend that formerly incarcerated individuals face barriers to obtaining employment on release because many do not

have a traditional resume or work history. C.S.H.B. 553 seeks to address this issue by creating a task force to identify opportunities for these individuals to demonstrate their skills to prospective employers.

Status: Referred to Criminal Justice; *Placed on intent calendar*; HB 553 referred to Corrections, Committee report sent to Calendars

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

Vocational Rehabilitation

HB 3341 – Rep. Moody (companion [SB 2027](#), Sen. Rodriguez)

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: SB 2027 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development

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

SB 455 – Sen. Zaffirini

Relating to the operations of the Employment-First Task Force. S.B. 455 would extend the duration of the task force from 2017 to 2021 to allow more time for the task force to achieve the goals laid out for it in the authorizing legislation of 2013. It also would require the task force to provide guidance and assistance to state agencies regarding the implementation of Employment First policies and would reflect organizational changes within current member agencies.

Status: referred to Health & Human Services; considered in public hearing, *Placed on intent calendar*

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