



## STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE June 6, 2017

*The following bills have been signed by the Governor:*

**[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: Effective 9/1/17***

**[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: Effective Immediately***

**[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.

***Status: Effective on 9/1/17***

**[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: Effective on 1/1/18***

**[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: Effective Immediately***

**[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: Effective Immediately**

**[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: Effective immediately**

**[SB 22](#) – Sen. Taylor**

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: Effective on 9/1/17**

**[SB 160](#) - Sen. Rodríguez**

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: Effective Immediately**

**[SB 276](#) - Sen. Watson**

Relating to adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program requirements. Seeks to increase the enrollment and graduation rates of high school dropouts and provide students with resources and training that will help maximize their potential by, among other things, removing the cap on the number of students who may attend an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school program.

**Status: Effective Immediately**

**[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: Sent to the Governor**

**[SB 588](#), Sen. Lucio**

Relating to information regarding private employers who have veteran's employment preference policies. S.B. 588 strengthens and builds on the efforts of SB 805 by Senator Campbell, enacted during the 84th Texas Legislature, which allowed private employers to have veteran's employment preference policies. Specifically, S.B. 588 allows private employers to notify the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and the Texas Veterans Commission (TVC) of their veteran's employment preference policies adopted under SB 805 of the 84th Legislature. The bill further provides that TVC and TWC make available on their websites a list of private employers who have provided notice of their veteran's employment preference policies.

**Status: Effective on 9/1/17**

### **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: Effective Immediately***

### **SB 1220 – Sen. Miles**

Relating to ensuring continuity of education and access to higher education, career information, and skills certification for foster care youth and former foster care youth. S.B. 1220 amends the Family Code to require the Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) to collaborate with local workforce development boards, foster care transition centers, community and technical colleges, schools, and any other appropriate workforce industry resources 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, that provides career guidance to foster care youth and former foster care youth, and that informs foster care youth and former foster care youth about the tuition and fee waivers for institutions of higher education that are available to students under DFPS conservatorship.

***Status: Effective Immediately***

### **SB 2105 - Sen. Miles**

Relating to the requirement that the Texas Workforce Commission provide certain employment information for secondary school students. Requires the Texas Workforce Commission to provide information on all CTE partnership opportunities with business and industry, and professional development and learning opportunities (i.e., internships, industry mentorships, summer programs, after-school programs, career-based student leadership opportunities) that are available regionally. Instead of generalized classes that teach basic construction, this bill will open the door for programs tailored to the specific industries located in the community—increasing realistic CTE opportunities for students across the State of Texas and the incentive for partnerships with school districts and local industry.

***Status: Effective 9/1/17***

***The following bills were passed by the Texas Senate and House of Representatives and have been sent to the Governor, who has until June 18 to sign or veto a bill. Bills not vetoed by the Governor become law without his signature.***

### **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: Sent to the Governor***

### **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: Sent to Governor***

#### **[HB 2729](#) – Rep. Lucio III**

H.B. 2729 seeks to ensure that public high school students in career and technology education programs have access to a coherent inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates that are aligned to state and regional workforce needs and serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs. 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: Sent to the Governor**

#### **[HB 2994](#) – Rep. Ashby**

H.B. 2994 amends the Education Code to require contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior college to be included in the contact hours used to determine the college's proportionate share of state money appropriated and distributed to public junior colleges, regardless of whether the course is taken by a student who is not an adult or whether the college waives all or part of the tuition or fees for the course. The bill defines "adult" as a person who has completed the person's sophomore year of high school, is 17 years of age and has been awarded a high school diploma or its equivalent or who is 18 years of age or older, regardless of the person's previous educational experience, and "workforce continuing education" as a program of instruction that is designed primarily for adults and is intended, on completion by a participant, to prepare the participant to qualify to apply for and accept an employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational category or to bring the participant's knowledge or skills up to date on new developments in a particular occupation or profession.

**Status: Sent to the Governor**

#### **[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: Sent to the Governor**

#### **[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: Sent to the Governor**

#### **[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: Sent to the Governor**

#### **[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: Sent to the Governor**

**[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: Sent to the Governor**

**[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: Sent to Governor**

***The following bills did not pass both chambers:***

***Workforce Development, Certification & Alignment***

**[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.

**[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.

***Career and Technical Education***

**[HB 395](#) – Rep. Bell (companion [SB 1635](#), Sen. Larry Taylor)**

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

**[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.

**[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.

### *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.

#### **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.

#### **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.

#### **SB 1097 – Sen. Lucio (companion HB 2541, Rep. Lucio III)**

Relating to funding for apprenticeship training programs through a lottery game. Would create a new lottery game to benefit apprenticeship training programs.

#### **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.

### *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.

#### **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.

#### **SB 484 – Sen. Miles (companion HB 1845, Rep. Coleman)**

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

#### **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.

### 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.

#### **[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.

#### **[HB 588](#) – Rep. Bohac**

Relating to the establishment of a grant program for promoting computer science certification and professional development for public school teachers.

#### **[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.

#### **[HB 1195](#) – Rep. Swanson**

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

#### **[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.

#### **[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.

### Higher Education

#### **[HB 42](#) – Rep. Romero, Jr.**

Relating to a franchise tax credit for certain taxable entities offering postsecondary tuition assistance.

#### **[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.

#### **[HB 1212](#) – Rep. Phillips**

Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for certain public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs.

#### **[HB 1563](#) – Rep. Guillen (companion [SB 2032](#), Sen. Bettencourt)**

Relating to the authority of the Texas State Technical College System to offer technical-vocational courses or programs.

**[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

**[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.

**[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.

**[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.

**[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.

**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."

**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.

**[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.



**[HB 1007](#) – Rep. Alonzo**

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

**[HB 1230](#) – Rep. Blanco**

Relating to franchise tax credits for businesses that employ veterans.

**Status: Referred to Ways & Means**

**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. Allows qualified 501(c)3 organizations to keep 50 percent of the sales tax they collect to put towards job training for persons with difficulties obtaining jobs.

**[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.

**[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.

**[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.

**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.

**[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.

**[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.

**[SB 477](#) – Sen. Lucio**

Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding certain employee issues.

**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.

**[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.

**[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.

**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.

**[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.

**[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.

**[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.

**HB 1981 – Rep. Eric Johnson**

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

**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.

**Vocational Rehabilitation**

**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.

**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.

***Please direct any suggestions or questions to Greg Vaughn, [greg.vaughn@tawb.org](mailto:greg.vaughn@tawb.org)***