STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE
February 28, 2019

*Items added since last Update denoted in red

**Apprenticeships/Internships**

**SB 508** – Sen. Miles
Relating to the development of a statewide online education and career advising tool and the establishment of a grant program to reimburse private employers for paid internships provided to certain public school students in career and technology education programs.
*Status: Referred to Senate Education*

**HB 570** – Rep. Creighton
Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that employ certain students in certain paid internship or similar programs.
*Status: Referred to Finance*

**HB 580** – Rep. Thierry
Relating to authorizing school districts to reimburse under the Foundation School Program private employers for paid internships provided to certain students in career and technology education programs in the district.
*Status: Referred to Public Education*

Relating to providing a sales and use tax refund or franchise tax credit for businesses that employ certain apprentices.
*Status: HB 966 Referred to Ways & Means; SB 685 Filed*

**HB 2588** – Rep. Phelan
Relating to the award of grants by the Texas Workforce Commission to facilitate the participation of certain veterans and military personnel in apprenticeship training programs.
*Status: Filed*

**Career and Technical Education**

**SB 508** – Sen. Miles
Relating to the development of a statewide online education and career advising tool and the establishment of a grant program to reimburse private employers for paid internships provided to certain public school students in career and technology education programs.
*Status: Filed*
SB 794 – Sen. Alvarado
Relating to authorizing certain examination fee subsidies for public school teachers who provide instruction in career and technology education courses.

Status: Filed

HR 241 – Rep. White
Recognizing March 8, 2019, as Career and Technical Education Letter of Intent Signing Day.

Status: Filed

Child Care

HB 680 – Rep. Deshotel
Relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.

Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development

Dual Credit, Certifications, Continuing Education

SB 501 – Sen. Seliger
Relating to a study of costs associated with dual credit courses offered at public high schools.

Status: Referred to Education

SB 502 – Sen. Seliger
Relating to requiring certain institutions of higher education to issue reports on the transferability of credit.

Status – Referred to Higher Education

SB 863 – Sen. Watson
Relating to a study of costs associated with dual credit courses offered at public high schools.

Status: Filed

Relating to establishing a pilot project to offer student loans for certain courses offered by a public junior college.

Status: Referred to Higher Education

HB 1051 – Rep. VanDeavor
Relating to an adult education program provided under an adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school program, eligibility of certain students for Foundation School Program benefits, and reporting requirements regarding the dropout status of certain students.

Status: Referred to Public Education

HB 1630 – Rep. Ken King
Relating to the funding of dual credit courses provided by public institutions of higher education. Bill would ensure that an institution of higher education receives the same level of funding for providing a dual credit course as every other institution of higher education receives for providing the same course or a substantially similar course.

Status: Filed
**HB 1949** – Rep. Guillen
Relating to the criteria for awarding adult education and literacy program performance incentive funds.
*Status: Filed*

**HB 2197** – Rep. Frullo
Relating to an agreement between a school district and public institution of higher education to provide a dual credit program to high school students enrolled in the district.
*Status: Filed*

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**Economic Development**

**HB 1221** – Rep. Patterson
Relating to authorizing certain projects to be undertaken by economic development corporations.
*Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development*

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**Ex-Offenders**

**SB 461** – Sen. Johnson
Relating to providing certain discharged or released inmates with documentation to assist in obtaining employment.
*Status: Referred to Criminal Justice*

**SB 523** – Sen. Hinojosa
Relating to the consequences of a criminal conviction on a person's eligibility for an occupational license.
*Status – Referred to Senate Business and Commerce*

**HB 1621** – Rep. White
Relating to the establishment of a public junior college district by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.
*Status: Filed*

**HB 2232** – Rep. Reynolds
Relating to the consequences of a criminal conviction on a person's eligibility for an occupational license.
*Status: Filed*

**HB 2448** – Rep. Reynolds
Relating to a strategic plan to reduce recidivism by facilitating stable employment for persons who are preparing to reenter communities of this state after incarceration.
*Status: Filed*

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**Higher Education**

**HB 277** – Rep. Oliverson
Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to certain comparative gainful employment data.
*Status: Referred to Higher Education*

**HB 1008** – Rep. Metcalf
Relating to the service of a member of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board or the commissioner of higher education.
*Status: Referred to State Affairs*
HB 1040 – Rep.’s Meza, Pacheco
Relating to the establishment of the Texas Promise Grant Program for certain students at two-year public institutions of higher education.
Status: Referred to Higher Education

HB 1118 – Rep. Swanson
Relating to a requirement that public and private institutions of higher education provide certain cost and employment opportunity data for degree programs.
Status: Referred to Higher Education

HB 1203 – Rep. Middleton
Relating to authorization by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board for public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs. Would authorize public junior colleges to offer baccalaureate degree programs in any field.
Status: Filed

Relating to the requirements for a junior college district to receive approval from the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to offer baccalaureate degree programs. Removed the requirement that a public junior college may offer a baccalaureate degree program only if its junior college district had a taxable property valuation amount of not less than $6 billion in the preceding year.
Status: HB 1749 Filed; SB 972 Filed

Pre-K Education

Relating to the availability of free prekindergarten programs in public schools.
Status: SB 287 Referred to Education; HB 2081 Filed

SB 725 – Sen. Lucio
Relating to funding for prekindergarten programs at certain school districts that operate early high school graduation programs.
Status: Filed

Relating to the eligibility of the children of public school educators for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.
Status: Filed

Primary Education

SB 3 – Sen. Nelson
Relating to additional funding to school districts for classroom teacher salaries.
Status: Placed on intent calendar

Proposing a constitutional amendment requiring the state to pay at least 50 percent of the cost of maintaining and operating the public school system and prohibiting the comptroller from certifying legislation containing an appropriation for public education unless the requirement is met.
Status: SJR 40 Filed; HJR 24 Filed; SJR 48 Filed)
**Skills Development Fund**

Relating to the use of the skills development fund by certain entities. Adds local workforce development boards, public libraries, and school districts as allowable grantees of Skills Development Fund grants.

*Status: SB 700 Referred to International Relations and Economic Development; SB 352 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development*

Relating to certain public school workforce training programs funded by the skills development fund. Would expand Skill Development Fund grantees to include public school districts and open-enrollment charter schools.

*Status: HB 1469 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development; HB 1472 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development*

**Texas Workforce Commission**

**HB 756** – Rep. Hinojosa
Relating to the participation of eligible nonprofit organizations in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant program.

*Status: Filed*

Relating to the administration by the Texas Workforce Commission of a workforce diploma pilot program.

*Status: HB 2416 Filed; SB 1055 Filed*

**TANF**

Relating to a pilot program for assisting certain recipients of public benefits to gain permanent self-sufficiency.

*Status: HB 1483 Referred to Human Services; SB 643 Filed*

**Veterans Affairs**

**HB 696** – Rep. Blanco
Relating to employment and referral services for veterans and military service members.

*Status: Referred to Defense & Veterans' Affairs*

**HB 714** – Rep. Lucio III
Relating to a reemployment program available to certain veterans placed on community supervision for a misdemeanor offense.

*Status: Filed*

**HB 1712** – Rep. Rosenthal
Relating to the expansion of the Texas Innovative Adult Career Education (ACE) Grant Program to include certain nonprofit organizations providing job training to veterans.

*Status: Filed*
Workforce Training

**SB 429** – Sen. Lucio (companion **HB 1669**, Lucio III)
Relating to a comprehensive plan for increasing and improving the workforce in this state to serve persons with mental health and substance use issues.

*Status: SB 429 Referred to Health & Human Services; HB 1669 Filed*