STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE
March 17, 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*

Relating to the establishment of the work-based learning task force. Would establish a work-based learning task force is established to develop strategies for expanding and improving the delivery of work-based learning opportunities in this state.

*Status: SB 1355 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development; HB 3818 Filed)*

**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 Referred to Finance*

**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: Referred to Defense & Veterans’ Affairs*

Relating to the creation of the Texas Industrial Workforce Apprenticeship grant program. Bill would establish a grant program in the Governor’s Office of Economic Development to meet the immediate
industrial workforce needs of the state resulting from the impact of Hurricane Harvey and overall workforce shortages by encouraging the private sector to develop specialized industrial workforce apprenticeship training programs.

Status: HB 2784 Referred to International Relations and Economic Development; SB 1576 Referred to Natural resources and Economic Development

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: Referred to Education

SB 2109 – Sen. Lucio
Relating to the state plan for career and technology education.
Status: Filed

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

HB 3423 – Rep. Allison
Relating to ad valorem and franchise tax credits for donations to school districts to create or support career and technical education programs or courses.
Status: Filed

HB 4284 – Rep. Lucio III
Relating to the requirement that the Texas Workforce Commission provide certain employment information for secondary school students. Would add language under the Labor code that the information provided under Subsection (a) must also identify the regional workforce needs in each county or other appropriate region and the industry certifications or other workforce credentials necessary to meet those needs, and require TWC to consult local workforce development boards in developing the information required.
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. The bill would amend the Labor Code to require TWC to evaluate additional information regarding the subsidized child care program in order to increase transparency through data collection and improve access to quality programs.
Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development; Committee substitute considered in committee
**HB 3739 – Rep. Goldman**
Relating to including certain child care providers in the Texas Rising Star Program and establishing a pilot program to expand participation in the Texas Rising Star Program. Would allow a local workforce development board to operate a pilot program in the area in which the board operates to increase the number of quality child-care providers in the area.

*Status: Filed*

**HB 3876 – Rep. Deshotel**
Relating to the creation of a work group to advise the Texas Workforce Commission regarding the Texas Rising Star Program. Would establish a work group to propose revisions to the commission’s rules on the Texas Rising Star Program. Work group members would include at least one member who is appointed to a local workforce development board.

*Status: Filed*

**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*

Relating to a study of costs associated with dual credit courses offered at public high schools.

*Status: SB 863 Referred to Education; HB 3055 Referred to Higher Education*

**SB 1276 – Sen. Powell**
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. Bill would provide for the alignment of endorsements offered by school districts, and dual credit courses offered under agreements that apply towards those endorsements, with postsecondary pathways and credentials at the institution and industry certifications.

*Status: Referred to Education*

**SB 1517 – Sen. Johnson**
Relating to the designation of a public high school by the Texas Education Agency as an early college high school. Would prohibit the Commissioner of TEA from refusing to designate a high school campus as an early college high school or revoke or refuse to renew a campus’s designation as an early college high school on the basis of the percentage of educationally disadvantaged students enrolled at the high school.

*Status: Referred to Education*
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; Considered in Public Hearing

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: Referred to Higher Education

Relating to the criteria for awarding adult education and literacy program performance incentive funds.
Status: Referred to International Relations & Economic Development

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: Referred to Higher Education

Would require Texas Education Agency to conduct a study to evaluate the industry-recognized credentials and certificates that are currently being offered to public high school students through career and technology education programs; and identify any unmet needs in career and technology education programs currently being offered to public high school students.
Status: HB 4282 Filed; SB 2042 Filed

HB 4283 – 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.
Status: Filed

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
**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*

**HR 387** – Rep. Reynolds
Expressing support for full reinstatement of Project Re-Integration of Offenders. Resolution endorsing reinstatement of Project Re-Integration of Offenders, better known as Project RIO, to prepare inmates to participate in the workforce following their release.
*Status: Referred to Corrections*

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

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

**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: Referred to Corrections*

**HB 2744** – Rep. Neave
Relating to the access of a female inmate of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to certain educational and vocational programs and services.
*Status: Referred to Corrections*

**HB 3015** – Rep. Talarico
Relating to educational requirements for inmates who are younger than 18 years of age. Would require Texas Department of Criminal Justice to establish a course of instruction to each inmate who is younger than 18 years of age.
*Status: Referred to Corrections*

**HB 4232** – Rep. Button
Relating to the use of the self-sufficiency fund for job-training programs that assist formerly incarcerated persons.
*Status: Filed*
**Higher Education**

Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education.

*Status: SB 25 Referred to Higher Education; HB 4018 Filed; SB 1787 Filed*

**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; Placed on General State Calendar*

**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 Referred to Higher Education; SB 972 Referred to Higher Education*

Relating to the establishment of the Texas Competency-Based Education Grant Program for certain students enrolled in competency-based baccalaureate degree programs and to formula funding and dropped and repeated course restrictions for students enrolled in those degree programs at public institutions of higher education.

*Status: HB 3657 Filed; SB 1770 Referred to Higher Education*
HB 3819 – Rep. Lozano  
Relating to the alignment of courses between educational entities in this state.  
*Status: Filed*

HB 4206 – Rep. Lozano  
Relating to a requirement that the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board include the number of commercial driver's license training program certificates awarded by a public junior college in measuring the achievement of certificate and degree completion goals under the state's master plan for higher education.  
*Status: Filed*

**Pre-K Education**  
Relating to the availability of free prekindergarten programs in public schools.  
*Status: SB 287 Referred to Education; HB 2081 Referred to Public Education*

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

**HB 1763** – Rep. Blanco  
Relating to the eligibility of the children of public school educators for free prekindergarten programs in public schools.  
*Status: Referred to Public Education*

**Primary Education**  
**SB 3** – Sen. Nelson  
Relating to additional funding to school districts for classroom teacher salaries.  
*Status: Passed by Senate*

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 Referred to Education; HJR 24 Filed; SJR 48 Referred to Education*

**Skills Development Fund**  
**SB 1722** – Sen. Campbell  
Relating to the award of grants from the skills development fund. Would require TWC, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Investment Council, to develop a tool for comparing the estimated cost of a proposed job-training initiative to the projected increase in wages attributable to the initiative.  
*Status: Referred to Natural Resources and Economic Development*

**SB 1723** – Sen. Campbell  
Relating to the award of grants from the skills development fund. Would limit funds awarded only to support job-training purposes that address the needs of high-demand occupations, as identified by the applicable local workforce development board’s regional targeted or high-demand occupations list or
TWC’s most recent growth occupations report.

Status: Referred to Natural Resources and Economic Development

SB 2433 – Sen. Taylor
Relating to the career and technology education and technology applications allotment and the essential knowledge and skills of the career and technology education and technology applications curriculums.

Status: Filed

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

HB 4004 – Rep. Allen
Relating to a study on improving educational outcomes for public school students of limited English proficiency. Would require Texas Education Agency and Texas higher Education Coordinating board to jointly conduct a study on improving educational outcomes for students of limited English proficiency.

Status: Filed

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; SB 1724 Referred to Natural Resources and Economic Development

Texas Workforce Commission

SB 1709 – Sen. Lucio
Relating to the participation of eligible career schools or colleges in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Program.

Status: Referred to Higher Education

SB 2202 – Sen. Fallon
Relating to the administration of the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. Would require TWC, the extent feasible, to distribute grants equally across geographic areas of this state, including an independent school district located in a rural area of this state in which no public junior college, public technical institute, or public state college is located.

Status: Filed

HB 1 – Rep. Zerwas
General Appropriations Bill. Currently includes the Subcommittee on Infrastructure, Resiliency and Investment’s recommendations on information technology funding. These include approval of all TWC’s infrastructure requests; the Eligible Training Provider and Career Schools System, TWC’s request for an Unemployment Insurance System Replacement, and the Workforce Case Management System. All these items were funded at their full amount. This includes TWC requests for $35.1 million for child care
removed from the filed version of HB 1 in FY 2021, $6 million in additional funding for the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) program and $1.345 million in additional funding for TWC’s Apprenticeship program.

*Status: Referred to Appropriations*

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

*Status: Referred to Higher Education*

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

*Status: HB 2416 Referred to International Relations & Economic Development ; SB 1055 Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development*

**HB 4507** – Rep. Lucio III
Relating to the allocation of funds under the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. Would require TWC to allocate at least 25 percent of annual funds available to public junior colleges, public technical institutes, public state colleges, and independent school districts located in a county that has an unemployment rate that is greater than the state average unemployment rate, a per capita income that is less than the state average per capita income, and a per capita poverty rate exceeding 1-1/2 times the per capita state poverty rate.

*Status: Filed*

**TANF**

Relating to a pilot program for assisting certain recipients of public benefits to gain permanent self-sufficiency. Would require the Department of Health and Human Services to create a pilot program that tests whether a slow reduction of benefits, paired with wrap-around case management services aimed at securing a living wage job; an emergency savings account; and a debt management plan, will help clients reach long-term self-sufficiency independent of public benefits. The pilot will serve up to 500 recipients of the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program and the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program for 24 to 60 months.

*Status: HB 1483 Referred to Human Services, considered in public hearing; SB 643 Referred to Finance*

**Veterans Affairs**

**HJR 99** – Rep. Zwiener
Proposing a constitutional amendment to require the legislature to appropriate funds to state institutions of higher education to fund certain education programs for veterans.

*Status: Referred to Appropriations*

Relating to employment and referral services for veterans and military service members.

*Status: Referred to Defense & Veterans’ Affairs; SB 1354 Referred to Vet Affairs & Border Security*
**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: Referred to Defense & Veterans' Affairs*

**HB 4047** – Rep. Dominguez
Relating to measures to facilitate the award of postsecondary course credit leading to workforce credentialing based on military experience, education, and training.
*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 Referred to Public Health*

**HB 3511** – Rep. VanDeaver
Relating to the creation of the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future. A Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future would be established to engage business, state agencies, and local workforce system partners in the efforts of state and local authorities to build the state’s workforce talent pipeline.
*Status: Filed*

Relating to a report by the Texas Workforce Commission regarding occupational skills training for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
*Status: HB 4299 Filed; SB 2038 Filed*

**HB 4347** – Rep. Anchia
Relating to the use of certain tax revenue by certain municipalities for the payment of job training programs and the development of hotel and convention center projects.
*Status: Filed*