



STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE

April 22, 2015

State Appropriations

SB 2 – Sen. Nelson

Senate general appropriations bill. Includes provisions for the transfer of programs from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services (DARS) to Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and TWC exceptional items requests for \$3 million in additional funding for the Apprenticeship program, \$10 million to fund a new initiative, Recruit Texas, or the additional \$20 million TWC requested to fund the new Accelerate Texas initiative.

Status: Pending in Senate Finance Committee

Pre-K Education

SB 1632 – Sen. Kolkhorst (companion **HB 2886**)

Relating to providing a training course for public school prekindergarten teachers. Requires TEA to develop a prekindergarten teacher training course to be offered to prekindergarten teachers employed by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

Status: Referred to Senate Education

HB 4 – Rep. Huberty et al (companion **SB 801**)

Relating to a high quality prekindergarten program provided by public school districts. The bill provides an estimated \$130 million in additional state funding for districts that agree to adopt a number of policies — including regular teacher training, limits on class size and certain curriculum standards — in their pre-kindergarten programs, as well as a "parent engagement plan." Only districts offering full-day programs would be eligible.

Status: Passed by House

HB 296 – Rep. Wu

Relating to certain prekindergarten programs offered by a school district. Bill concerns having a minimum standard for what should be considered high-quality prekindergarten; defines high-quality prekindergarten as having class sizes limited to 22 students with an 11 to 1 staff ratio; the classroom teacher must have at least a Bachelor's degree, be certified and have 9 hours of course credit in a prekindergarten background; and the curriculum must be approved by the Commissioner of Education. Fiscal note of the bill is estimated at \$2 million for an additional 307 prekindergarten teachers in the state.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Public Education Committee

HB 391 – Rep. Munoz, Jr. (companion **HB 424**)

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Bill would require school districts to offer a full-day prekindergarten program (instead of half-day) to students that qualify.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education Committee

[HB 424](#) – Rep. Dutton (*companion [HB 391](#)*)

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Bill would require school districts to offer a full-day prekindergarten program (instead of half-day) to students that qualify.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Public Education Committee

[HB 1100](#) – Rep. E. Johnson, Rep. Farney

Relating to a gold standard full-day prekindergarten program provided by public school districts. Bill would create an incentive payment system for school districts offering full-day pre-kindergarten.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Public Education Committee

[HB 1188](#) – Rep. Deshotel

Relating to the creation of a joint interim committee to study and make recommendations regarding early childhood education. HB 1188 creates a Joint Interim Committee to study facets of early childhood education in Texas and whether multiple state agencies providing services from birth to 5 years can be consolidated.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Public Education Committee

[HB 2886](#) – Rep. Deshotel

Relating to providing a training course for public school prekindergarten teachers. Requires TEA to develop a prekindergarten teacher training course to be offered to prekindergarten teachers employed by a school district or open-enrollment charter school.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education

[HB 3887](#) – Rep. Dutton

Relating to the establishment of the office of early learning within the Texas Education Agency. Bill would establish the office of early learning as a division of TEA to provide oversight of prekindergarten programs and prekindergarten funding, provide resources to school districts to ensure prekindergarten programs meet quality standards and best practices, and assist school districts in developing local solutions and improving prekindergarten programs.

Status: Filed; referred to House Public Education

[HB 4107](#) – Rep. Walle

Relating to the appropriation of money from the economic stabilization fund to finance universal, high quality, prekindergarten education programs. Bill would appropriate \$1.5 billion for the state fiscal biennium ending August 31, 2017 from the Economic Stabilization Fund to general revenue as money available for use by Texas Education Agency for funding universal, high quality, prekindergarten education programs for children who are at least three years of age.

Status: Filed; referred to House Appropriations Committee

Primary & Secondary Education

[SB 13](#) – Sen.'s Perry, Estes, Hall, Schwertner, Seliger (*companion [HB 3278](#)*)

Relating to measures to support public school student academic achievement and career preparation, including measures to improve and support dual-credit courses. Bill would prohibit any rule limiting the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school or limiting the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year. Bill also calls for each school district to provide instruction to seventh and eighth graders in preparing for high school, college, and a career.

Status: Passed Senate

[SB 149](#) – Sen. Seliger

Relating to the creation of individual graduation committees for certain high school students. Bill would require, for students who fail to perform satisfactorily on an end-of-course assessment instrument a second time, the school district or open-enrollment charter school that the student attends to establish an individual graduation committee to determine whether the student qualifies to graduate.

Status: Passed Senate; Referred to House; Referred to House Public Education Committee; Reported favorably as substituted

[SB 925](#) – Sen. Kolkhorst (*companion [HB 1843](#)*)

Relating to providing training academies for public school teachers who provide reading instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three. A literacy achievement academy developed under this bill must include training in effective and systematic instructional practices in reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Status: Filed; Pending in Senate Education Committee; Placed on intent calendar

[SB 934](#) – Sen. Kolkhorst

Relating to providing training academies for public school teachers who provide mathematics instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three. Bill would require the Commissioner of Education to develop mathematics achievement academies for teachers who provide math instruction to students in kindergarten, first, second, or third grades. The achievement academies must include training in effective and systematic instructional practices in mathematics, including measurement, problem solving, and analyzing and describing geometric shapes, figures, and patterns.

Status: Pending in Senate Education committee; Placed on intent calendar

[SB 935](#) – Sen. Kolkhorst

Relating to the establishment of reading excellence teams. Bill would require the Commissioner of Education to establish reading excellence teams for school campuses rated academically unacceptable on the TEA reading assessment instrument administered to students in the third grade.

Status: Pending in Senate Education Committee; Placed on intent calendar

[SB 1126](#) – Sen. Taylor (*companion [HB 1414](#)*)

Relating to a prohibition of restrictions on the grade levels at which a public high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course. Bill would prohibit any rule that restricts the grade levels at which a high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course.

Status: Referred to Senate Education Committee

[SB 1159](#) – Sen. Estes (*companion [HB 505](#)*)

Relating to a prohibition of limitations on the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a public high school student may enroll. Bill would prohibit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from adopting a rule that limits the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a high school student may enroll.

Status: Referred to Senate Education

[SB 1248](#) – Sen. West (*companion [HB 1047](#)*)

Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that employ certain students in certain paid internship or similar programs.

Status: Referred to Senate Finance

[HB 181](#) – Rep. Bell, Rep. Krause

Relating to information printed by school districts on high school diplomas.

H.B. 181 amends the Education Code to restrict the documentation of certain endorsements and performance acknowledgments earned by a student to the student's high school transcript, instead of allowing a student to earn an endorsement or performance acknowledgement on both the student's transcript and high school diploma. The bill applies beginning with a high school diploma issued at the end of the 2014–2015 school year.

Status: *Passed by House*

[HB 505](#) – Rep. E. Rodriguez

Relating to a prohibition of limitations on the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a public high school student may enroll. H.B. 505 seeks to allow students to better prepare themselves for college and their careers. Bill would prohibit the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board from adopting a rule that limits the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a high school student may enroll.

Status: *Passed by House; referred to Senate Education Committee*

[HB 1047](#) – Reps. Workman, Parker, Darby (*companion [SB 1248](#)*)

Relating to a franchise tax credit for entities that employ certain students in certain paid internship or similar programs.

Status: *Filed; referred to House Ways & Means Committee*

[HB 1414](#) – Rep. Smith (*companion [SB 1126](#)*)

Relating to a prohibition of restrictions on the grade levels at which a public high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course. Bill would prohibit any rule that restricts the grade levels at which a high school student may be eligible to enroll in a dual credit course.

Status: *Filed, Referred to House Public Education*

[HB 1759](#) – Rep. Aycock

Relating to the public school finance system. Bill would put an additional \$3 billion into the school finance system and address inequities in the system.

Status: *Filed, referred to House Public Education Committee; Reported favorably as substituted*

[HB 1843](#) – Rep. Aycock (*companion [SB 925](#)*)

Relating to providing training academies for public school teachers who provide reading instruction to students in kindergarten through grade three. A literacy achievement academy developed under this bill must include training in effective and systematic instructional practices in reading, including phonemic awareness, phonics, fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension.

Status: *Pending in House Public Education Committee; Reported favorably as substituted; Committee report sent to Calendars*

[HB 1869](#) – Rep. Isaac

Relating to courses or other activities offered by public schools for certain industry-recognized credentials or certificates. Amends language to the Education Code to include training relating to federal occupational safety laws and rules; and codes and standards adopted by any recognized national code organization.

Status: *Filed*

[HB 1892](#) – Rep. Eddie Rodriguez

Relating to the establishment of a community school grant program. The bill would establish a competitive grant program to assist public elementary, middle, junior high, and high schools in developing community school plans and transitioning into community schools.

Status: Filed

[HB 2209](#) – Rep. VanDeaver

Relating to the Texas High Performance Schools Consortium. Bill would establish a Texas High Performance Schools Consortium to identify methods for transforming public schools in Texas by improving student learning through the development of innovative, next-generation learning standards and assessment and accountability systems.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education Committee

[HB 2223](#) – Rep. Deshotel (companion [SB 925](#))

Relating to training academies for public school teachers who provide reading comprehension instruction to students in grades four and five.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education

[HB 2349](#) – Rep. Aycock

Relating to public school assessment, performance standards, and course requirements. Bill would allow a student to earn a performance acknowledgement on the student's diploma and transcript by passing an established, valid, reliable, and nationally norm-referenced preliminary college preparation assessment instrument used to measure a student's progress toward readiness for college and the workplace or used by colleges and universities as part of their undergraduate admissions process. It would also authorize a student to take more than three dual credit courses if the junior college and the school district authorize the student's enrollment.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Public Education Committee; Committee report sent to Calendars

[HB 2812](#) – Rep. Springer

Relating to the limit on junior college courses that a high school student may enroll in for dual credit. The bill would remove the limitation relating to the number of junior college courses that a high school student may enroll in for dual credit.

Status: Referred to House Public Education Committee; Reported favorably w/o amendment(s)

[HB 2820](#) – Rep. Reynolds

Relating to the authorization of certain industry professionals to provide instruction in public schools. Bill is intended to provide expedited certification of persons with appropriate industry credentials to ensure a sufficient number of qualified industry professionals to provide instruction relating to curriculum required for a high school graduation endorsement.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education Committee

[HB 3278](#) – Rep. Larry Gonzales (companion [SB 13](#))

Relating to measures to support public school student academic achievement and career preparation, including measures to improve and support dual-credit courses. Bill would prohibit any rule limiting the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll while in high school or limiting the number of dual credit courses or hours in which a student may enroll each semester or academic year. Bill also calls for each school district to provide instruction to seventh and eighth graders in preparing for high school, college, and a career.

Status: Filed; referred to House Public Education

Post-Secondary Education

SB 38 – Sen. Zaffirini (companion [HB 1809](#))

Relating to creation of an employment-first task force advisory committee. The bill would establish an advisory committee to make recommendations for increasing and expanding postsecondary educational opportunities and access for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. It also would call for research into existing programs in and model programs outside this state.

Status: Filed; Referred to Senate Health & Human Services

SB 271 – Sen. Watson (companion [HB 1384](#))

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

Status: Filed; Referred to Senate Higher Education

SB 1480 – Sen. Garcia (companion [HB 2628](#))

Relating to the development and alignment by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of curricula for certain educational programs. Bill requires THECB board to periodically review each field of study curriculum to ensure alignment with student interest and academic and industry needs.

Status: Referred to Senate Higher Education

HB 298 – Rep. Wu

Relating to measures to facilitate the transfer, academic progress, and timely graduation of students in public higher education. Would require certain higher education institutions to publish on the institution's Internet website a detailed description of the learning objectives, content, and prior knowledge requirements for at least 12 courses offered by the institution for which credit is frequently transferred to the institution from lower-division institutions of higher education; establishes articulation agreements with public junior colleges.

Status: Filed, Status: Pending in House Public Education Committee; Reported favorably as substituted

HB 1287 – Rep. Simmons

Relating to a requirement that each state university's Internet website include a link to certain employment data. Bill requires each general academic teaching institution other than a public state college to maintain in a prominent location on the institution's Internet website a link to the Texas Consumer Resource for Education and Workforce Statistics ("Texas CREWS") report on gainful employment applicable to the institution for the most recent year for which that report is available.

Status: Referred to House Higher Education; referred to Subcommittee on Post-Secondary and Workforce Readiness; Placed on Local, Consent, and Res. Calendar

HB 1384 – Rep. S. Davis, Rep. Pena (companion [SB 271](#))

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

Status: Filed; Referred to House Higher Education

HB 1809 – Rep. Naishtat (companion [SB 38](#))

Relating to creation of an employment-first task force advisory committee. The bill would establish an advisory committee to make recommendations for increasing and expanding postsecondary educational

opportunities and access for individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities. It also would call for research into existing programs in and model programs outside this state.

Status: *Filed; Referred to House Human Services*

[HB 2628](#) – Rep. Clardy (companion [SB 1480](#))

Relating to the development and alignment by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board of curricula for certain educational programs. Bill requires THECB board to periodically review each field of study curriculum to ensure alignment with student interest and academic and industry needs.

Status: *Referred to House Higher Education; Recommended to be sent to Local & Consent; Committee report distributed; Placed on Local, Consent, and Res. Calendar*

Economic Development

[HB 26](#) – Rep. Button

Relating to state economic development measures, including administration of the Texas Enterprise Fund, creation of the Economic Incentive Oversight Board, abolishment of the Texas Emerging Technology Fund and certain programs and funds administered by the Texas Economic Development Bank, and disposition of balances from the Texas emerging technology fund.

Status: *Referred to House Economic & Small Business Development Committee; Committee report sent to Calendars*

[HB 27](#) – Rep. Button

Relating to state economic development measures, including administration of the Texas Enterprise Fund, the abolishment of the Texas emerging technology fund, and the disposition of balances from the Texas emerging technology fund.

Status: *Left pending in House Economic & Small Business Development Committee; Reported favorably as substituted*

[HB 292](#) – Rep. Stephenson

Relating to authorizing development corporations to finance projects to support primary job training facilities and programs at certain educational institutions.

Status: *Filed, Referred to Economic & Small Business Development Committee*

[HB 1155](#) – 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: *Pending in House Economic & Small Business Development*

[HB 1156](#) – Rep. Alvarado

Relating to the establishment of an electronic information and application system for state and local incentives for economic development purposes. Bill would create a single integrated web portal where a company considering moving to or expanding in Texas can fill out a uniform application that will automatically list the incentives that they pre-qualify for. At the same time, the portal will send the application to the proper state and local officials for further customized incentive packages and consultations.

Status: *Pending in House Economic & Small Business Development*

[HB 4052](#) – Rep. James White

Relating to posting certain economic development agreements on the Internet.

Status: Filed; referred to House Economic & Small Business Development Committee

Child Care

[HB 256](#) – Rep. Howard

Relating to use of compensatory education allotment funding to provide assistance with child care to students at risk of dropping out of school. Bill would provide funds for providers of child-care services or assistance with child-care expenses for students at risk of dropping out of school, or pay the costs of day care or associated transportation provided through a life skills program. The purpose of the compensatory education allotment is to support students who are educationally disadvantaged and at risk of dropping out of school, including students who are pregnant or are parents.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education Committee; Considered in Calendars Committee

[HB 3658](#) – Rep. Susan King

Relating to the development and administration of a parent orientation and education pilot program for recipients of subsidized child-care services. Bill would direct Texas Workforce Commission to develop and implement a pilot program to offer parent orientation and other parent education programs to parents receiving subsidized child-care services through a local workforce development board; one local workforce development board located in a rural area and one local workforce development board located in an urban area to participate in the pilot program.

Status: Filed; referred to House Human Services

Career and Technology Education

[HB 1157](#) – Rep. Alvarado

Relating to funding for public school career and technology education programs. Bill focuses on funding and eligibility for career and technology education programs (CTE) that will better equip students for steady, well-paying jobs that will properly prepare them for life after graduation. It would increase CTE funding to ensure programs are adequately funded and broaden the grades for which school districts can receive funding for CTE programs to include seventh and eighth grade students.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Public Education Committee

[HB 1497](#) – Rep. Schaefer

Relating to the issuance of school district teaching permits to persons who teach career and technical education. Bill would authorize school boards to issue a school district teaching permit to a person who will teach courses only in career and technical education based upon qualifications certified by the superintendent that include demonstrated subject matter expertise obtained through professional work experience, or formal training and education, or a combination of both.

Status: Referred to House Public Education Committee; pending in Subcommittee on Educator Quality; Reported favorably as substituted; Committee report sent to Calendars

[HB 3062](#) – Rep. Clardy

Relating to the participation of an independent school district in the Jobs and Education for Texans (JET) Grant Program. The bill would allow an independent school district (ISD) to become an eligible recipient of JET grant funds if the ISD has entered into a partnership with a public junior college or public technical institute for the purpose of promoting career and technical education to the ISD's students.

Status: Referred to House Higher Education; Referred directly to s/c Post-Secondary & Workforce Readiness; Recommended to be sent to Local & Consent; Placed on Local, Consent, and Res. Calendar

TANF/SNAP

SB 606 – Sen. Garcia (*companion* [HB 1267](#))

Relating to the eligibility of certain persons for the supplemental nutrition assistance program. Bill addresses TANF/SNAP eligibility provisions for persons convicted of a felony offense that has as an element of the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.

Status: *Filed; Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Committee*

SB 723 – Sen. Perry

Relating to mandatory participation in certain TANF employment and other programs by certain persons.

Status: *Filed; Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Committee; Scheduled for public hearing on March 25, 8:00 am*

SB 936 – Sen. Kolkhorst (*companion* [HB 1258](#))

Relating to the eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits for certain persons who owe delinquent child support. Bill would disqualify an individual from receiving SNAP Benefits if the person is delinquent on their child support payments. It would permanently ban a person who fails to meet the program's work requirements for the third time without good cause. The bill would only apply to able-bodied adults without dependents and who are required to work in order to receive food stamps.

Status: *Filed; Referred to Senate Health & Human Services Committee*

HB 1258 – Rep. S. King (*companion* [SB 936](#))

Relating to the eligibility for supplemental nutrition assistance benefits for certain persons who owe delinquent child support. Bill would disqualify an individual from receiving SNAP Benefits if the person is delinquent on their child support payments. It would permanently ban a person who fails to meet the program's work requirements for the third time without good cause. The bill would only apply to able-bodied adults without dependents and who are required to work in order to receive food stamps.

Status: *Filed; Referred to House Human Services Committee*

HB 1267 – Rep. S. Thompson (*companion* [SB 606](#))

Relating to the eligibility of certain persons for the supplemental nutrition assistance program. Bill addresses TANF/SNAP eligibility provisions for persons convicted of a felony offense that has as an element of the possession, use, or distribution of a controlled substance.

Status: *Filed; referred to House Human Services Committee*

Veterans Affairs

SB 508 – Sen. Jose Rodriguez

Relating to the employment of veterans by a public entity or public work of this state. Bill would reduce the required percentage of total workforce comprised of veterans at a state agency from 40 percent to 20 percent before the agency is not required to give veterans employment preference at the agency.

Status: *Filed, Received by Secretary of the Senate*

SB 805 -- Sen. Campbell (*companions* [HB 754](#), [HB 2996](#))

Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference. SB 805 allow direct hiring of veterans by agencies through the Texas Workforce Commission's automated job

matching system, requires agencies to interview veterans, and ensures agencies with more than 500 FTEs (full-time equivalents) designate a veteran's liaison.

Status: Filed; Considered in Senate Veteran & Military Installations Committee

[SB 806](#) – Sen. Campbell (*companion* [HB 757](#))

Relating to the College Credit for Heroes program. Bill would require a report by November 1 of this year on the results of any grants awarded under College Credit For Heroes program, the best practices for veterans and military service members to achieve maximum academic or workforce education credit at institutions of higher education, and other related measures needed to facilitate the entry of trained, qualified veterans and military service members into the workforce.

Status: Passed Senate

[HB 754](#) – Rep. Menendez (*companions* [SB 805](#), [HB 2996](#))

Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Economic and Small Business Development Committee

[HB 757](#) – Rep. Menendez (*companion* [SB 806](#))

Relating to the College Credit for Heroes program. Bill would require a report by November 1 of this year on the results of any grants awarded under College Credit For Heroes program, the best practices for veterans and military service members to achieve maximum academic or workforce education credit at institutions of higher education, and other related measures needed to facilitate the entry of trained, qualified veterans and military service members into the workforce.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Higher Education

[HB 2996](#) – Rep. Guillen (*companions* [HB 754](#), [SB 805](#))

Relating to the employment of individuals qualified for a veteran's employment preference.

Status: Filed; Referred to House Economic & Small Business Development Committee; Scheduled for public hearing on 4/23/2015.

TWC/Workforce Board Operations

[SB 208](#) – Sen. Campbell (*companion* [HB 3294](#))

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Status: Filed; Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee; Scheduled for public hearing on 4/16/2015

[SB 1351](#) – Sen. Hinojosa

Relating to transferring to the Texas Workforce Commission certain duties of the comptroller related to the Jobs and Education for Texans Grant Program.

Status: Referred to Senate Higher Education

[SB 1390](#) – Sen. Lucio (*companion* [SB 1456](#))

Relating to improving the accountability of local workforce development boards and consumer information regarding job training programs.

Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee

[SB 1456](#) – Sen. Zaffirini (*companion* [SB 1390](#))

Relating to improving the accountability of local workforce development boards and consumer information regarding job training programs.

Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee

[HB 426](#) – Rep. Howard

Relating to the acceptance of employment applications through the online system for listing state agency employment openings maintained by the Texas Workforce Commission. Bill would make changes to TWC's workintexas.com (WIT) website to make it more user-friendly and to improve the application process for those seeking employment with the state.

Status: Pending in House Government Transparency & Operations Committee; Reported favorably as substituted; Committee report sent to Calendars

[HB 1712](#) – Rep. Oliveira

Relating to the establishment of an Innovative Workforce Training Center in the Rio Grande Valley. Bill would establish the Innovative Workforce Training Center to develop and provide initial and continuing education and training for workers; administered by Texas Southmost College in Brownsville.

Status: Pending in Subcommittee on Post-Secondary & Workforce Readiness;

[HB 3294](#) – Rep. Burkett (companion [SB 208](#))

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Commission.

Status: Pending in House Economic & Small Business Development Committee

Workforce Development, Certification & Alignment

[SB 18](#) – Sen.'s Nelson, Hinojosa, Seliger (companion [HB 1445](#))

Relating to measures to support or enhance graduate medical education in this state, including the transfer of assets following the dissolution of the Texas Medical Liability Insurance Underwriting Association. Bill is intended to address Texas' medical workforce needs by expanding graduate medical education (GME).

Status: Pending in Senate Finance Committee

[SB 209](#) -- Sen. Hinojosa, et al (companion [HB 1606](#))

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Investment Council, including assumption of the duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board. Bill adds language to the reauthorization of the Texas Workforce Investment Council to develop a statewide system of industry-defined and Industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major skilled occupations and abolishing the Texas skills Standards Board.

Status: not again placed on intent calendar

[HB 1445](#) – Rep. Guillen (companion [SB 18](#))

Relating to measures to support or enhance graduate medical education in this state, including the transfer of assets following the dissolution of the Texas Medical Liability Insurance Underwriting Association. Bill is intended to address Texas' medical workforce needs by expanding graduate medical education (GME).

Status: Filed; referred to House Higher Education

[HB 1606](#) – Rep. Burkett (companion [SB 209](#))

Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Investment Council, including assumption of the duties of the Texas Skill Standards Board. Continues the Texas Workforce Investment Council and changes the council's Sunset review date to 2027 to continue the agency for 12 years. The bill requires the council to be reviewed during the period in which the Texas Workforce Commission

(TWC) is reviewed. Bill also abolishes the Texas Skill Standards Board and transfers its powers and duties to the Texas Workforce Investment Council. The bill requires the council to provide advice to the governor and the legislature on the development of a statewide system of industry-defined and industry-recognized skill standards and credentials for all major skilled occupations that provide strong employment and earnings opportunities in this state and require less than a baccalaureate degree.

Status: Passed by House; Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development Committee

Drug Testing

SB 722 – Sen. Perry (companion [HB 589](#))

Relating to a disqualification for unemployment benefits for refusing to take or failing a pre-employment drug test. SB 722 provides that an individual who submitted to a pre-employment drug test required by an employer, but failed that drug test or refused, without good cause, to submit to a pre-employment drug test required by an employer, is disqualified from receiving unemployment benefits.

Status: Not again placed on intent calendar, co-author authorized

HB 589 – Reps. Burkett, Harless, Ken King (companion [SB 722](#))

Relating to a disqualification for unemployment benefits for refusing to take or failing a pre-employment drug test. H.B. 589 requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) by rule to specify the circumstances under which a person is considered to have good cause for refusing to submit to a drug test and requires the TWC, not later than December 1, 2015, to adopt rules necessary to implement the bill's provisions. The bill's provisions apply only to a claim for unemployment compensation benefits filed with the TWC on or after December 1, 2015.

Status: Filed; Pending in House Economic & Small Business Development Committee; Committee report sent to Calendars