



STATE LEGISLATION UPDATE March 6, 2017

**Bills filed since last Update denoted in red*

Workforce Development, Certification & Alignment

HB 374 – Rep.'s Johnson, Jarvis

Relating to the requirement that the Texas Workforce Commission provide certain employment information for secondary school students. Would require TWC to add in quarterly reports to TEA data on career and technical education partnership opportunities with business and industry; and professional development opportunities for teachers and learning opportunities for students through industry mentorships, internships, summer programs, after-school programs, and career-based student leadership opportunities

Status: Filed

HB 378 – Rep. s Oliverson/Raney

Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to certain employment data relating to fields of study. An electronic common admission application form adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the Texas Consumer Resource for Education and Workforce Statistics ("Texas CREWS") report on gainful employment.

Status: Referred to Higher Education

HB 802 – Rep. Murphy

Relating to a requirement that online admission application forms for public institutions of higher education include a link to certain postsecondary education and career opportunity information. An electronic common admission application form adopted under this section must include a prominent link to the comparative postsecondary education and career opportunity information maintained by the Texas Education Agency on the agency's Internet website.

Status: Filed

SB 482 – Sen. Miles (companion **HB 1640**, Rep. Vo)

Relating to the creation of a program to assist foster care youth and former foster care youth in accessing higher education, career information, and skills certifications. Would require Department of Family and Protective Services to collaborate with local workforce development boards and related workforce entities to create a program that assists foster care youth and former foster care youth in obtaining a high school diploma or a high school equivalency certificate; and industry certifications that are necessary for occupations that are in high demand.

Status: Referred to Health & Human Services

SB 497 – Sen. Uresti

Relating to the creation of an office of workforce development and analytics in the Department of Family and Protective Services. Would require the department to create an office of workforce

development and analytics to provide workforce support services, oversee workforce recruitment and training, and perform data analytics for the department. **Status: Referred to Health & Human Services; Considered in Public Hearing**

Adult Education

[HB 852](#) – Rep. Parker (companion [SB 276](#), Sen. Watson)

Relating to adult high school diploma and industry certification charter school pilot program requirements. Eliminates the cap on the number of individuals served by adult education providers.

Status: SB 276 Referred to Education; HB 852 Referred to Public Education

Career and Technical Education

[HB 136](#) – Rep. Bell

Relating to inclusion of career and technology education and workforce training to the mission of public education. Would amend the definition of a well-balanced curriculum in the Education Code to add success in a variety of postsecondary activities, including employment, workforce training, and enrollment in institutions of higher education. The bill also would add the objective for TEA to assist school districts and charter schools in providing career and technology education and effective workforce training opportunities to students.

Status: Filed

[HB 380](#) - Rep. Huberty (companion [HB 639](#), Rep. Charles Anderson)

Relating to authorizing the purchase of certain insurance coverage by public school districts for the benefit of businesses and students participating in career or technology training programs and providing for immunity from liability of certain public school students participating in career or technology programs.

Status: Referred to Public Education

[HB 395](#) – Rep. Bell

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

Status: Referred to Public Education; Scheduled for public hearing on 3/7/2017

[HB 2729](#) – Rep. Lucio III

Relating to an inventory of credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program. Would require TWC and THECB to jointly develop and post on their respective Internet websites an inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates that may be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program and that are aligned to state and regional workforce needs, and serve as an entry point to middle- and high-wage jobs.

Status: Filed

[HB 2730](#) – Rep. Lucio III

Relating to the authority of the commissioner of education to create career and technical credentials and certificates that may be earned through a career and technology education program and to a study to identify unmet needs in career and technology education programs.

Status: Filed

[SB 154](#) – Sen. Hinojosa (companion [HB 1700](#), Rep. Hinojosa)

Relating to the establishment by the Texas Workforce Commission of a career and technical education workforce specialist pilot program. Would establish pilot program by TWC under which workforce development specialists would provide career services to students at public high schools in three designated regions of this state for directing those students toward high-demand, skilled occupations experiencing existing or projected workforce shortages in this state.

Status: Referred to Education

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.

Status: Filed; SB 518 Referred to Finance; HB 595 Referred to Ways & Means; Considered in Public Hearing

[HB 1127](#) – Rep. Raymond

Relating to a franchise tax credit pilot program for taxable entities that employ certain apprentices.

Status: Referred to Ways & Means

[SB 1097](#) – Sen. Lucio

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

Status: Filed

[SB 574](#) – Sen. Miles

Relating to the expansion of applied workforce learning opportunities in this state, including through the establishment of the Texas Industry Internship Challenge. Would require TWC, TEA and THECB to develop strategies to significantly increase the number of, and participation by students in, applied workforce learning opportunities, including paid internships, externships, and apprenticeships; and to facilitate the uniform award by high schools and public or private institutions of higher education of academic credit to students for the successful completion of those opportunities.

Status: Referred to Senate Education

Pre-K Education

[HB 710](#) – Rep. Wu

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Would expand the definition under this section of the Education Code of eligible public education programs from half-day to full-day pre-kindergarten.

Status: Referred to Public Education

[HB 2255](#) – Rep. Ken King

Relating to student eligibility for free high quality prekindergarten programs and state financial support for each school district that elects to provide a full-day prekindergarten program. Would eliminate restrictions on the number of children that must be provided pre-k classes and allows the provision of full-day pre-k.

Status: Filed

[SB 484](#) – Sen. Miles

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

Status: *Referred to Education*

[SB 35](#) – Sen. Zaffirini (companion [HB 196](#), Rep. Mary González)

Relating to providing free full-day prekindergarten for certain children. Would expand the number children eligible for free full-day pre-kindergarten programs.

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

Primary Education

[HB 194](#) – Rep. Bernal

Relating to providing for endorsements for public high school students enrolled in special education programs. Defines the criteria by which a student who is enrolled in a special education program may earn an endorsement on the student 's transcript.

Status: *Referred to Public Education*

[HB 223](#) – Rep. Howard

Relating to use of compensatory education allotment funding to provide assistance to students at risk of dropping out of school who are pregnant or who are parents. Would allow funds to be used for child-care services expenses and costs associated with life skills programs for students at risk of dropping out of school.

Status: *Filed*

[HB 588](#) – Rep. Bohac

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

Status: *Filed*

[HB 713](#) – Rep. Wu (companion: [SB 160](#), Sen. Rodríguez; [HB 363](#), Rep. Huberty; [SB 214](#), Sen. Menéndez)

Relating to a prohibition of a monitoring system performance indicator based on the number or percentage of students receiving special education services. Would prohibit the TEA from adopting or implementing a performance indicator in any agency monitoring system that evaluates the total number of students or the percentage of enrolled students of a school district or open-enrollment charter school who receive special education services.

Status: *SB 160 Referred to Education; SB 214 Referred to Education; HB 713 Referred to Public Education*

[HB 729](#) – Rep. Bohac

Relating to instruction in positive character traits in public schools. Would require the State Board of Education to integrate positive character traits into the essential knowledge and skills adopted for kindergarten through grade 12, including courage; trustworthiness, integrity, respect and courtesy, responsibility, fairness, caring and good citizenship.

Status: *Referred to Public Education*

[HB 1195](#) – Rep. Swanson

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

Status: *Filed*

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

Relating to the establishment of a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program and to the repeal of the tech-prep program. Would establish a Pathways in Technology Early College High School (P-TECH) program for students who wish to participate in a work-based education program.

Status: Referred to Senate Education Committee; Considered in Public Hearing

[SB 191](#) – Sen. Garcia

Relating to the ability of a nonexempt employee to participate in certain academic, disciplinary, college and career readiness, and developmental activities of the employee's child or grandchild.

Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development

Higher Education

[HB 42](#) – Rep. Romero, Jr.

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

Status: Referred to Ways & Means; Scheduled for public hearing 3/8/2017

[HB 393](#) – Rep. Strickland (similar bills: [HB 753](#), Rep. Keough; [HB 767](#), Rep. Fallon)

Relating to the determination of resident status of students by public institutions of higher education. Would abolish 2001 state law allowing noncitizens, including some undocumented immigrants, to pay in-state tuition rates at public colleges if they can prove they've been Texas residents for at least three years and graduated from a Texas high school or received a GED. They must also sign an affidavit promising to pursue a path to permanent legal status if one becomes available.

Status: HB 393 Referred to State Affairs; HB 753 Referred to Higher Education; HB 767 Referred to Higher Education

[HB 1212](#) – Rep. Phillips (companion [SB 367](#), Sen. Garcia)

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

Status: Filed

[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: Filed

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

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

Status: Referred to Higher Education

[SB 645](#) – Sen. Watson (companion [HB 1828](#), rep. Howard)

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

Status: SB 645 Referred to Higher Education

[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.

Status: Filed

[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: Referred to Higher Education

Economic Development

[HB 108](#) – Rep. Alvarado

Relating to the creation of the Recruit Texas Program to facilitate the relocation to or expansion in this state of employers offering complex or high-skilled employment opportunities. Bill would create the Recruit Texas program which would allow TWC to provide funds to community and technical colleges for things such as rapid curriculum development to employers who are looking to expand or move to Texas.

Status: Referred to Economic & Small Business Development

[SB 6](#) – Sen. Kolkhorst

Relating to regulations and policies for entering or using a bathroom or changing facility. Would require transgender people to use bathrooms in public schools, government buildings and public universities based on “biological sex.”

Status: Referred to Senate State Affairs

[SB 634](#) – Sen. Estes

Relating to reporting requirements for certain skills development fund workforce training program providers. Would require public community colleges and technical schools to refund to the comptroller any state funds if they fail to submit a report required by this section.

Status: Referred to Natural Resources & Economic Development

Veterans Affairs

[HB 92](#) – Rep. Guillen

Relating to the entitlement of spouses of certain veterans with disabilities to a veteran's employment preference. Would add the spouse of a veteran with a disability who has a total disability rating based either on having a service-connected disability with a disability rating of 100 percent or on individual unemployability to those who are qualified for veteran's employment preference.

Status: Filed

[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: Referred to Defense & Veterans' Affairs

[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: Filed

[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.

Status: Filed

[HB 1007](#) – Rep. Alonzo

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

Status: Filed

[HB 1192](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to the expansion of the College Credit for Heroes program to lower-division public institutions of higher education offering degrees in certain fields.

Status: Filed

[HB 1230](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to franchise tax credits for businesses that employ veterans.

Status: Filed

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

Relating to information regarding private employers who have veteran's employment preference policies. Would require TWC to make available on its website a list of each private employer who has provided notice that the employer has adopted a veteran's employment preference policy.

Status: Filed; SB 588 Referred to Veteran Affairs & Border Security

[HB 1973](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to enhanced employment services for veterans and military service members. Defines services to be provided by the TWC Operation Welcome Home program.

Status: Filed

[HB 2673](#) – Rep. Blanco

Relating to the development of transferable degree or certificate program curricula for which qualified veterans or military service members may be awarded course credit based on military service.

Status: Filed

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.

Status: Referred to Ways & Means; Scheduled for public hearing on 3/8/2017

[HB 1965](#) – Rep. Dutton

Relating to liability insurance for career schools and colleges. Would prohibit the approval of the application of a career school or college for a certificate of approval or for the renewal of a certificate of approval unless the career school or college maintains a liability insurance policy.

Status: Filed

[SB 234](#) – Sen. Menendez

Relating to a prohibition against the use by a career school or college of certain advertising designed to mislead or deceive prospective students.

Status: Referred to Veterans' Affairs & Border Security

TWC/Workforce Board Operations

[HB 317](#) – Rep. Canales

Relating to the consideration by certain employers of the consumer credit reports of certain employees and applicants for employment; providing administrative penalties.

Status: Filed

[HB 334](#) – Rep. Collier

Relating to the consideration by employers of the consumer credit reports or other credit information of employees and applicants for employment; providing civil and administrative penalties.

Status: Filed

[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.

Status: Filed

[SB 477](#) – Sen. Lucio

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

Status: Referred to Senate Natural Resources & Economic Development

Child Care

[HB 740](#) – Rep. Burkett

Relating to application and license fees for certain child-care facilities and child-placing agencies. Would set out the fees for to be charged by the Department of Family and Protective Services for licenses to operate a child-care facility or child-placing agency.

Status: Filed

[HB 751](#) – Rep. Farrar

Relating to state agency authority to establish child-care subsidy programs. Would allow state agencies to establish a child-care subsidy program to assist the agency’s lower income employees with their child-care costs.

Status: Filed

[SB 940](#) – Sen. Campbell

Relating to the evaluation of and improvements to the quality of the Texas Workforce Commission's subsidized child care program.

Status: Referred to Health & Human Services

Ex-Offenders

[HB 86](#) – Rep. Guillen

Relating to providing a sales and use tax refund or franchise tax credit for businesses that employ former offenders.

Status: Filed

[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: Filed

[HB 548](#) – Rep. Deshotel

Relating to the consideration of criminal history record information regarding applicants for employment. Would prohibit an employer from including a question regarding an applicant's criminal history record information on an initial employment application form under certain conditions.

Status: Filed

[HB 577](#) – Rep. Workman

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.

Status: Filed

[HB 893](#) – Rep. Raymond

Relating to the dissemination of criminal history record information by the Department of Public Safety concerning certain intoxication offenses.

Status: Filed

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

Relating to the creation of a task force to identify opportunities for academic credit and industry recognition for inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

Status: Filed

TANF

HB 436 – Rep. Ken King (similar: **HB 775**, Rep. Fallon; **SB 268**, Sen. Nelson)

Relating to the drug testing of certain persons seeking benefits under the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) program. Would require adult and minor parent applicants for financial assistance benefits to submit to a marijuana and controlled substance use screening assessment.

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

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