

1 AN ACT

2 relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior
3 colleges.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by
6 adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

7 SUBCHAPTER L. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION

8 Sec. 130.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

9 (1) "Adult" means a person who:

10 (A) has completed the person's sophomore year of
11 high school;

12 (B) is 17 years of age and has been awarded a high
13 school diploma or its equivalent; or

14 (C) is 18 years of age or older, regardless of the
15 person's previous educational experience.

16 (2) "Avocational course" means a course of study in a
17 subject or activity that is usually engaged in by a person in
18 addition to the person's regular work or profession for recreation
19 or in relation to a hobby. The term includes a community interest
20 course.

21 (3) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher
22 Education Coordinating Board.

23 (4) "Workforce continuing education" means a program
24 of instruction that:

1 (A) is designed primarily for adults; and

2 (B) is intended, on completion by a participant,
3 to prepare the participant to qualify to apply for and accept an
4 employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational
5 category or to bring the participant's knowledge or skills up to
6 date on new developments in a particular occupation or profession.

7 (5) "Workforce continuing education course" means a
8 course of instruction in workforce continuing education that is
9 approved by the coordinating board. The term does not include an
10 avocational course.

11 Sec. 130.302. FORMULA FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE CONTINUING
12 EDUCATION COURSES. Notwithstanding Section 130.003 or any other
13 law, contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a
14 workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior
15 college shall be included in the contact hours used to determine the
16 college's proportionate share of state money appropriated and
17 distributed to public junior colleges under Sections 130.003 and
18 130.0031, regardless of whether the college waives all or part of
19 the tuition or fees for the course under Section 130.304.

20 Sec. 130.303. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HIGH
21 SCHOOL STUDENTS. (a) A public junior college may offer, or may
22 enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or
23 other person that operates a high school to offer, workforce
24 continuing education courses other than learning framework
25 courses, basic employability courses, and basic learning skills
26 courses to a person who:

27 (1) is enrolled in high school on the completion of the

1 person's sophomore year;

2 (2) is enrolled in a school that is not formally
3 organized as a high school and is at least 16 years of age; or

4 (3) is attending high school while incarcerated, is at
5 least 16 years of age, and is not eligible for release from
6 incarceration before the person's 18th birthday.

7 (b) This section does not prohibit a public junior college
8 from offering community interest continuing education courses
9 using local funds.

10 Sec. 130.304. WAIVER OF TUITION AND FEES FOR WORKFORCE
11 CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. A public junior college may waive
12 all or part of the tuition or fees charged to a student for a
13 workforce continuing education course only if:

14 (1) the student:

15 (A) is enrolled in high school or in a school
16 described by Section 130.303(a)(2);

17 (B) is 16 years of age or older, has had the
18 disabilities of minority removed, and is not enrolled in secondary
19 education; or

20 (C) is under the age of 18 and is incarcerated;

21 (2) all or a significant portion of the college's costs
22 for facilities, instructor salaries, equipment, and other expenses
23 for the course are covered by business, industry, or other local
24 public or private entities; or

25 (3) the course is taught in a federal correctional
26 facility and the facilities, equipment, supplies, and other
27 expenses for the course are funded by the federal government.

1 Sec. 130.305. RULES. The coordinating board shall adopt
2 any rules the coordinating board considers necessary for the
3 administration of this subchapter. In adopting those rules, the
4 coordinating board shall use the negotiated rulemaking procedures
5 under Chapter [2008](#), Government Code.

6 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2994 was passed by the House on April 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 130, Nays 2, 4 present, not voting; that the House refused to concur in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 2994 on May 26, 2017, and requested the appointment of a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the House adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2994 on May 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 146, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

H.B. No. 2994

I certify that H.B. No. 2994 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 22, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 28, Nays 3; at the request of the House, the Senate appointed a conference committee to consider the differences between the two houses; and that the Senate adopted the conference committee report on H.B. No. 2994 on May 28, 2017, by the following vote: Yeas 30, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor