

- SUBJECT:** Requiring study on employment for persons with intellectual disabilities
- COMMITTEE:** Human Services — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 8 ayes — Raymond, Frank, Keough, Klick, Miller, Minjarez, Rose, Wu
1 nay — Swanson
- SENATE VOTE:** On final passage, April 25 — 31-0
- WITNESSES:** No public hearing
- DIGEST:** SB 2027 would require the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC), with the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), to conduct a study of occupational training programs available in Texas for individuals with intellectual disabilities. The study would determine the regions where training programs should be improved or expanded and determine strategies for placing trained individuals with intellectual disabilities into fulfilling jobs using existing or improved training programs.
- HHSC would report the results of the study by December 1, 2018, to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, and appropriate House and Senate committees.
- The bill would take effect September 1, 2017.
- SUPPORTERS SAY:** SB 2027 would help individuals with intellectual disabilities broaden their job prospects by requiring the Health and Human Services Commission and the Texas Workforce Commission to research current training opportunities throughout the state. The study delivered to state officials just before the next legislative session would provide timely information and recommendations to lawmakers on policies to pursue in helping more of these individuals transition into fully integrated employment settings.
- OPPONENTS SAY:** Requiring the state to conduct another study would not be an efficient use of taxpayer money.