

- SUBJECT:** Establishing the Industry-Based Certification Advisory Council
- COMMITTEE:** International Relations and Economic Development — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Button, C. Morales, Beckley, C. Bell, Canales, Metcalf, Ordaz Perez
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — Hunter, Larson
- WITNESSES:** For — Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers (TAM); (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Alamo Colleges District; Daniel Womack, Dow Inc.; Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; CJ Tredway, Independent Electrical Contractors of Texas; Annie Spilman, NFIB; Dena Donaldson, Texas AFT; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Chris Noonan, Texas Chemical Council; Adam Burklund, Texas Masonry Council; Ryan Skrobarczyk, Texas Nursery & Landscape Association; Lori Henning, TX Association of Goodwills)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)
- BACKGROUND:** Education Code sec. 29.189 requires the Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission to jointly develop an inventory of certain industry-recognized credentials and certificates that could be earned by a public high school student through a career and technology education program. Concerns have been raised that the existing inventory does not adequately address the state's employment needs.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3938 would establish the Industry-Based Certification Advisory

Council to advise the Texas Workforce Commission on the alignment of public high school career and technology education programs with current and future workforce needs in communities, regions, and the state.

**Duties.** The council would be required to develop an inventory of industry-recognized credentials and certificates that could be earned by a public high school student through certain career and technology education programs. In developing the inventory, the council would be authorized to consult with local workforce boards, the Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Texas Economic Development and Tourism Office, and the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board.

The council would be required to establish a process for developing the inventory, including the criteria for the inclusion of a credential or certificate. The council would be required to annually review, revise, and adopt the inventory and provide a copy to the Texas Education Agency and certain school districts and institutions of higher education.

The council would be required to develop the initial required inventory as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date but before January 1, 2022.

**Composition.** The council would be composed of the following nine members:

- three members representing industry in this state;
- three members representing public high school teachers or administrators who teach career and technology education courses; and
- three members representing a public junior college.

In each of the three categories of council member, the governor, lieutenant governor, and House speaker would appoint one member each.

The members of the council would serve staggered four-year terms with the terms of either four or five members expiring February 1 of each odd-

numbered year. The initial members appointed would be required to determine by lot which four members would serve terms that expire February 1, 2023 and which five members would serve terms that expire February 1, 2025.

A vacancy on the council would be required to be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for that position. A member of the council would not be entitled to compensation but would be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary travel expenses incurred in the performance of council functions.

**Other provisions.** The Texas State Technological College System would be required to provide administrative and staff support to the council using existing resources.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2021.