

- SUBJECT:** Expanding employer-requested off-campus workforce education
- COMMITTEE:** Higher Education — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — Murphy, Pacheco, Cortez, Frullo, Ortega, Parker, Raney, C. Turner, J. Turner
- 0 nays
- 2 absent — P. King, Muñoz
- WITNESSES:** For — Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Erin Valdez, Texas Public Policy Foundation; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Daniel Womack, Dow, Inc.; John McCord, NFIB; J.D. Hale, Texas Association of Builders; Gilbert Zavala, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce)
- Against — None
- On — (*Registered, but did not testify:* Priscilla Camacho, Alamo Colleges District)
- BACKGROUND:** Calls have been made to remove obstacles to the establishment of employer-requested off-campus workforce development programs with institutions of higher education.
- DIGEST:** HB 4361 would authorize a public institution of higher education to enter into an agreement with an employer to provide a credit or noncredit off-campus workforce education or lower-division program to the institution's students at a site requested by the employer without the approval of a higher education regional council. The public institution of higher education could enter the agreement regardless of whether the site at which the program was offered was located within the institution's uniform state service region or, if the institution was a public junior college, within the junior college district's service area if:
- the employer had solicited an agreement to offer the program at

that site with another institution of higher education that offered the same or substantially equivalent coursework as that requested by the employer;

- the proposed site for the off-campus program was located within the uniform state service region in which the institution was located or, if the institution was a public junior college, within the junior college district's service area; and
- the institution did not finalize an offer to enter into an agreement with the employer that met the employer's specification for the off-campus program within six weeks after the employer's initial written solicitation requesting the institution to offer the program.

The bill would apply beginning with the 2021-2022 academic year.

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.