

SUBJECT: Revising data collection for certain workforce programs and data systems

COMMITTEE: International Relations & Economic Development — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 9 ayes — Button, Ordaz, Bumgarner, Clardy, Hayes, Meza, C. Morales, Plesa, Shine
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — Renzo Soto, Texas 2036 (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matthew Garcia, Dallas Regional Chamber; Sarah Douglas, National Federation of Independent Business; Gilbert Zavala, Opportunity Austin; Dana Harris, Samsung Austin Semiconductor; Leonard Aguilar, Texas AFL-CIO; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Thomas Kennedy, Texas Building Trades Council; Justin Yancy, Texas Business Leadership Council; Jorge Borrego, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Travis Krogman, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas)

Against — None

On — Mariana Vega, Texas Workforce Commission

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code sec. 2308A.001, "career education and training program" means:

- a career and technology education program offered by a public school;
- a career technical or workforce education program, as defined by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB);
- a program administered by the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) relating to jobs, training, skills development, or adult education and literacy; and
- a work-based learning program, such as an apprenticeship or

internship program that received state funding or is administered by TWC.

Some have suggested that more defined methods of measuring wage outcomes by TWC could assist when creating targeted career education and training program changes to improve participant outcomes.

DIGEST:

CSHB 1703 would require TWC to establish and administer a pilot program in the Borderplex workforce development area under which the local workforce development board serving that area would be required to collect and evaluate certain data regarding career education and training programs administered in that area to identify:

- successful program components; and
- any gaps in data used to follow up on career education and training program participants following program completion maintained by TWC, the Texas Education Agency (TEA), or THECB under the Tri-Agency Workforce Initiative.

Under the pilot program, TWC would have to ensure that the local workforce development board maintained certain evaluation and employment attainment data for each career education and training program participant following program completion, disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, income, and location.

On completion of the pilot program, the local workforce development board serving the workforce development area, in coordination with TWC, would be required to issue an analysis of the job placement performance of each career education and training program by occupation and provider.

TWC could share individual-level outcome information resulting from the pilot program with state agencies represented on the council through secure means that could be accessed only by authorized employees of those agencies.

By December 1, 2028, TWC would be required to submit to the Legislature a written report on the results of the pilot program. The report would have to include the commission's recommendation on whether the pilot program should be continued on a statewide basis.

Provisions establishing the pilot program would expire September 1, 2029.

CSHB 1703 would amend provisions regarding the Workforce Development Evaluation System to require data to be disaggregated by race, ethnicity, sex, income, and location.

The bill would specify conditions under which TWC could develop a method for collecting occupational information to supplement wage record information. TWC would have to ensure that the system included with the evaluation data a hyperlink to a website where self-sufficient wage data was posted. Following any modernization of TWC's evaluation system on or after September 1, 2023, the evaluation data in the system would have to include a comparison of self-sufficient wage data with program earnings outcomes at certain anniversaries of the date of program completion.

Analyses upon completion of the pilot program and following any modernization of the evaluation system by TWC would have to include an analysis of the attainment of employment paying a self-sufficient wage following program completion and detailed information on services provided with each offered program.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.