

CHAPTER 696

H.B. No. 553

An Act relating to certain industrial training programs conducted by the Central Education Agency and to the creation of the Technology Training Board.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Texas:

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

- (1) "Commission" means the Texas Economic Development Commission.
- (2) "Agency" means the Central Education Agency.

SECTION 2. INDUSTRIAL TRAINING PROGRAMS. (a) After consultation with the Adult Education Advisory Committee of the State Board of Education and the commission, the agency shall develop an industrial training program to enhance employment opportunities in existing businesses and industries within this state and to encourage the location and development of new businesses and industries in the state. The program shall use existing educational facilities available through public school districts, public junior colleges, and public universities in developing and conducting the industrial training program.

(b) The agency may:

- (1) provide preemployment and developmental training to provide employment opportunities in new or expanding industries;
- (2) provide preemployment and developmental training to provide civilian employment opportunities with United States military reservations located in this state;
- (3) conduct industrial training seminars in conjunction with public or private employers;
- (4) provide grants for any necessary renovation of existing educational facilities, or for equipment necessary for training purposes; and
- (5) adopt rules or take other actions considered necessary by the agency to fully implement this Act.

SECTION 3. TRAINING CRITERIA. A public secondary school, junior college, or university may request the commission to recommend that the agency establish industrial training courses at that educational institution that are designed to meet the employee training needs of employers, including United States military reservations, that are located in the geographic area of the institution. The agency may exercise its discretion in determining whether to establish such a training course. In order for an educational institution to qualify for the creation of such a training course, the institution must reasonably foresee a hiring requirement in the specific skill to be taught at the institution.

SECTION 4. CONFORMING AMENDMENT. Section 11.18(e), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(e) Funds shall be appropriated to implement statewide adult basic education, adult bilingual education, high school equivalency, and high school credit programs to eliminate illiteracy in Texas and to implement and support a statewide program to meet the total range of adult needs for adult education, related skill training, and pilot programs to demonstrate the effectiveness of the community education concept. An additional sum of money may be appropriated for the purpose of skill training in direct support of industrial expansion and start-up, and those locations, industries, and occupations designated by the Texas *Economic Development [Industrial]* Commission, when such training is also in support of the basic purposes of this section. *To fulfill the basic purposes of this section, an additional sum of money may be appropriated for skill training that is conducted to support the expansion of civilian employment opportunities on United States military reservations. The Central Education Agency, in conjunction with the Texas Economic Development Commission, may adopt rules to administer such skill training programs.*

SECTION 5. TECHNOLOGY TRAINING. Title 83, Revised Statutes, is amended by adding Article 5190.4 to read as follows:

Art. 5190.4. TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

Sec. 1. TECHNOLOGY TRAINING BOARD. (a) *The Technology Training Board is created. The board is composed of eight members selected by their respective organizations as follows:*

- (1) *three members of the Texas Economic Development Commission;*
- (2) *two members of the State Job Training Coordinating Council established under Section 8(b), Texas Job-Training Partnership Act (Article 4413(52), Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes);*
- (3) *one member of the board of regents of the Texas State Technical Institute;*
- (4) *one member of the Coordinating Board, Texas College and University System; and*
- (5) *one member of the State Board of Education.*

(b) *Members of the board serve two-year terms expiring February 1 of each odd-numbered year. The board shall elect a chairman and vice-chairman at its first meeting after each biennial appointment of members. Vacancies on the board shall be filled by the appropriate appointing organization for the unexpired term.*

(c) *The executive director and staff of the Texas Economic Development Commission shall serve as the executive director and staff of the board.*

(d) *The Technology Training Board is subject to the Texas Sunset Act (Article 5429k, Vernon's Texas Civil Statutes). Unless continued in existence as provided by that Act, the board is abolished September 1, 1987.*

Sec. 2. DUTIES. *The board shall:*

- (1) *collect and disseminate information related to technology training, technology research, and job and industrial opportunities in the state;*
- (2) *cooperate with the federal government, other state agencies, private businesses, and educational organizations in encouraging technology training and its implementation;*
- (3) *conduct studies and issue reports relating to technology training; and*
- (4) *take other action that it considers necessary to carry out the purposes of this article.*

Sec. 3. BUSINESS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. (a) The board shall develop a program of direct assistance to individual businesses seeking to aid or take advantage of technology training in the state. Under this program the board shall:

(1) refer businesses seeking to hire individuals trained by technology training organizations or businesses seeking aid in the technological training of their employees to the appropriate technology training organization;

(2) direct aid provided by businesses to appropriate technology training organizations; and

(3) provide other appropriate aid.

(b) The board shall collect a fee for services provided under this section. The board shall set the fee in the amount necessary to cover the cost of administering this article.

Sec. 4. ASSISTANCE TO TECHNOLOGY TRAINING ORGANIZATIONS. The board shall provide assistance to technology training organizations, including assistance in curriculum development, research direction, job placement, or other appropriate assistance.

Sec. 5. INITIAL APPOINTMENTS. The organizations represented on the board shall make their initial appointments to the board not later than the 90th day after the effective date of this article. The chairman of the Texas Economic Development Commission shall call an organizational meeting of the board not later than the 120th day after the effective date of this article. This section expires September 1, 1986.

SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September 1, 1985.

SECTION 7. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

Passed by the House on April 24, 1985, by a non-record vote; House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 553 on May 26, 1985, by a non-record vote; passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 1985, by a viva-voce vote.

Approved: June 14, 1985

Effective: September 1, 1985