

Incarceration Education Act

HB 24 – SB 12

Bill Text

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

relating to workforce continuing education offered by public junior colleges.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 130, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter L to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER L. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION

Sec. 130.301. DEFINITIONS. In this subchapter:

(1) "Adult" means a person who:

(A) has completed the person's sophomore year of high school;

(B) is 17 years of age and has been awarded a high school diploma or its

equivalent; or (C) is 18 years of age or older, regardless of the person's

previous educational experience.

(2) "Avocational course" means a course of study in a subject or activity

that is usually engaged in by a person in addition to the person's regular

work or profession for recreation or in relation to a hobby. The term

includes a community interest course.

(3) "Coordinating board" means the Texas Higher Education

Coordinating Board.

(4) "Workforce continuing education" means a program of instruction

that: (A) is designed primarily for adults; and (B) is intended, on

School

San Isidro High School

Senate Committee Laying Out in
Economic Development and
Transportation

Senate Author

TBD

House Committee Laying Out In
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Celine Longoria

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completion by a participant, to prepare the participant to qualify to apply for and accept an employment offer or a job upgrade within a specific occupational category or to bring the participant's knowledge or skills up to date on new developments in a particular occupation or profession.

(5) "Workforce continuing education course" means a course of instruction in workforce continuing education that is approved by the coordinating board. The term does not include an avocational course.

Sec. 130.302. FORMULA FUNDING FOR WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. Notwithstanding Section 130.003 or any other law, contact hours attributable to the enrollment of a student in a workforce continuing education course offered by a public junior college shall be included in the contact hours used to determine the college's proportionate share of state money appropriated and distributed to public junior colleges under Sections 130.003 and 130.0031, regardless of whether the college waives all or part of the tuition or fees for the course under Section 130.304.

Sec. 130.303. WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION FOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. (a) A public junior college may offer, or may enter into an agreement with a school district, organization, or other person that operates a high school to offer, workforce continuing education courses other than learning framework courses, basic employability courses, and basic learning skills courses to a person who: (1) is enrolled in high school on the completion of the person's sophomore year; (2) is enrolled in a school that is not formally organized as a high school and is at least 16 years of age; or (3) is attending high school while incarcerated, is at least 16 years of age, and is not eligible for release from incarceration before the person's 18th birthday. (b) This section does not prohibit a public junior college from offering community



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interest continuing education courses using local funds.

Sec. 130.304. WAIVER OF TUITION AND FEES FOR
WORKFORCE CONTINUING EDUCATION COURSES. A public
junior college may waive all or part of the tuition or fees charged to a
student for a workforce continuing education course only if:

(1) the student: (A) is enrolled in high school or in a school described by
Section 130.303(a)(2); (B) is 16 years of age or older, has had the
disabilities of minority removed, and is not enrolled in secondary
education; or (C) is under the age of 18 and is incarcerated; (2) all or a
significant portion of the college's costs for facilities, instructor salaries,
equipment, and other expenses for the course are covered by business,
industry, or other local public or private entities; or (3) the course is
taught in a federal correctional facility and the facilities, equipment,
supplies, and other expenses for the course are funded by the federal
government.

Sec. 130.305. RULES. The coordinating board shall adopt any
rules the coordinating board considers necessary for the administration of
this subchapter. In adopting those rules, the coordinating board shall use
the negotiated rulemaking procedures under Chapter 2008, Government
Code.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect January 1, 2019.