

**SUBJECT:** Awarding grants for military member participation in apprenticeships

**COMMITTEE:** Defense and Veterans' Affairs — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 9 ayes — Flynn, Tinderholt, Ashby, Hinojosa, Lopez, Lozano, Ramos, Reynolds, Romero

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** For — Darrell Roberts, Center for Military Recruitment, Assessment and Veterans Employment, Helmets to Hardhats; Brandon Willis and Fred Swift, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 450; Kwee Lan Teo, The Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce; (*Registered, but did not testify*: John McKinny, American Legion; Melissa Shannon, Bexar County Commissioners Court; Dana Chiodo, Computing Technology Industry Association; Daniel Womack, Dow Chemical; Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Bradley Pepper, Greater Houston Builders Association; Annie Spilman, National Federation of Independent Business; David Mintz, Texas Apartment Association; Scott Norman, Texas Association of Builders; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Jim Brennan, Texas Coalition of Veterans Organizations; Ronnie Smitherman, Texas Building Trades Council; Steven Price, The Voices Of Our Veterans, Texas Democratic Veterans; Bob Gebhard; Justin Richardson)

Against — None

On — Courtney Arbour, Texas Workforce Commission

**DIGEST:** HB 2588 would require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to develop and administer a program under which TWC could award grants to nonprofits that facilitated veterans' and active-duty military service members' participation in apprenticeship training programs in Texas while they were transitioning into civilian employment.

TWC would adopt rules as soon as practicable after the effective date of

the bill for the administration of the grant program, including rules for verifying that state funds awarded to nonprofit organizations were being used appropriately.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**NOTES:** According to the Legislative Budget Board, the bill would have a negative impact of \$600,000 on general revenue related funds through fiscal 2020-21.