

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center

S.B. 781  
By: Ellis  
Finance  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

Currently, the federal Personal Responsibility and Reconciliation Act of 1996 requires states to provide 20 hours of work activities for 25 percent of their public assistance recipients in fiscal year 1997. In five years states must have 50 percent of welfare recipients working at least 30 hours a week. This bill creates a Texans Work on-the-job training program (program) for recipients of public assistance, establishes the Texas Employment and Training Account to pool business donations to the program, and directs the Texas Workforce Commission and the Skill Standards Board to work with participating businesses to develop skills standards for their training programs.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 781 creates a Texans Work on-the-job training program (program) for recipients of public assistance, establishes the Texas Employment and Training Account to pool business donations to the program, and directs the Texas Workforce Commission and the Skill Standards Board to work with participating businesses to develop skills standards for their training programs.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Workforce Commission in Section 1 (Section 308.004, Labor Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 4B, Labor Code, by adding Chapter 308, as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 308. TEXANS WORK PROGRAM**

Sec. 308.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines "division," "employer," "JOBS training program," "local workforce development board," "program," "trainee," and "training course."

Sec. 308.002. TEXANS WORK PROGRAM. Provides for the eligibility of the Texans Work Program (program). Requires the program to be operated through courses conducted by participating employers and to offer direct work experience and skills training. Requires the program to be offered in certain areas.

Se. 308.003. TRAINING COURSES; APPROVAL. Sets forth requirements and procedures for each training course.

Sec. 308.004. POWERS AND DUTIES OF COMMISSION: DIVISION. Requires the Texas Workforce Commission (commission) to adopt certain rules to implement the program and develop guidelines for the approval of employer training courses. Requires the Texas Department of Human Services to provide certain information to the commission and the local workforce development board.

Sec. 308.005. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING EMPLOYER. Sets forth rights and duties of the employer.

Sec. 308.006. RIGHTS AND DUTIES OF PARTICIPATING TRAINEE. Sets forth rights

and duties of the trainee.

Sec. 308.007. ACCOUNT. Sets forth the creation, composition and use of the Texas employment training account.

Sec. 308.008. TRAINING STIPEND. Sets forth requirements and procedures for a training stipend for trainees.

SECTION 2. Amends Chapter 31A, Human Resources Code, by adding Section 31.0037, as follows:

Sec. 31.0037. EARNED INCOME FROM WORK PROGRAM. Prohibits the Texas Department of Human Services from considering any income earned by a recipient of financial assistance under the Texas Work program established under Chapter 308, Labor Code, for certain purposes.

SECTION 3. Requires a state agency to request a waiver or authorization may delay implementing a provision until a waiver or authorization is granted, if before implementing any provision of this Act, a state agency determines that a waiver or authorization from a federal agency is necessary.

SECTION 4. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 5. Effective date: September 1, 1997.

SECTION 6. Emergency clause.