

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
76R2177 CLG-D

S.B. 343  
By: Ellis  
Human Services  
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As Filed

### **DIGEST**

The federal Personal Responsibility Act of 1996 requires Texas to provide work participation requirements for its approximately 88,000 public assistance recipients. Among the federal welfare law definitions of eligible work activities are community service programs and vocational education programs. This bill creates a self-sufficiency fund designed to assist certain colleges, community-based organizations, and state agencies to develop a job-training program.

### **PURPOSE**

As proposed, S.B. 343 creates a self-sufficiency fund to develop a job-training program, and requires fund recipients to assist program graduates in finding employment that will help them become financially independent.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

Rulemaking authority is granted to the Texas Workforce Commission in SECTION 1 (Section 309.004, Labor Code) of this bill.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Amends Title 4B, Labor Code, by adding Chapter 309, as follows:

#### **CHAPTER 309. SELF-SUFFICIENCY FUND**

Sec. 309.001. DEFINITIONS. Defines “community-based organization” and “fund.”

Sec. 309.002. SELF-SUFFICIENCY FUND. Creates the self-sufficiency fund (fund) as an account in the general revenue fund for use by certain organizations to develop customized job-training programs (programs). Authorizes fund monies to be used for pre-employment preparations. Requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to administer the fund. Provides that distribution of fund monies is the responsibility of the executive director, or an appointee knowledgeable in grant administration. Requires fund money to be spent in all areas of Texas.

Sec. 309.003. JOB-TRAINING PROGRAMS. Sets forth requirements of fund-financed programs. Requires fund recipients to work with employers to find jobs for program graduates that provide compensation which allows them to become independent of state financial assistance.

Sec. 309.004. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY. Authorizes the Texas Workforce Commission to adopt rules which determine who is eligible to participate in job-training programs.

SECTION 2. Effective date: September 1, 1999.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.