

SUBJECT: Health care training through the Skills Development Fund

COMMITTEE: Economic Development — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 7 ayes — Oliveira, Yarbrough, Keffer, Luna, Seaman, Siebert, Van de Putte
0 nays
2 absent — Greenberg, Raymond

WITNESSES: For — Patrick Bresette, Center for Public Policy Priorities
Against — None

BACKGROUND : The Skills Development Fund was created in 1995 to provide customized training programs for Texas businesses through educational institutions. The Texas Workforce Commission uses the fund for grants to public community and technical colleges developing workforce training programs for businesses and trade unions and to sponsor small and medium-sized business networks and consortia.

DIGEST: CSHB 3259 would allow monies from the Skills Development Fund to be used as grants for training and apprenticeship programs in supportive health care work for recipients of public assistance. The bill would require the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) to establish a pilot program to provide grants to public community and technical colleges that have partnerships with public or private hospitals, hospital districts, or other health-related businesses.

The pilot program would expire September 1, 1999. The commission would have to report on the pilot program to the 76th Legislature.

CSHB 3259 would take effect September 1, 1997.

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NOTES: The committee substitute eliminated provisions requiring the TWC to work with the Department of Licensing and Regulation to adopt rules, limiting a program participant to one year of grant funding, and establishing criteria for awarding grants.