

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center
77R539 KLA-D

S.B. 160
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Health & Human Services
3/30/2001
As Filed

DIGEST AND PURPOSE

Currently, local workforce contractors are evaluated on their ability to place workers in a job. As proposed, S.B. 160 provides incentives for local workforce board contractors to place workers in higher-wage jobs.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Workforce Commission in SECTION 1 (Sections 302.009 and 302.010, Labor Code) of this bill.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 302A, Labor Code, by adding Sections 302.009, 302.010, and 302.011, as follows:

Sec. 302.009. JOB PLACEMENT INCENTIVE PROGRAM. (a) Requires the Texas Workforce Commission (commission) to develop, by rule, a job placement incentive program under which persons with whom local workforce development boards contract for employment services under Chapter 2308 (Workforce and Economic Competitiveness Act), Government Code, are provided incentives for placing recipients of financial assistance participating in employment programs under Chapter 31 (Financial Assistance and Service Programs), Human Resources Code, in higher-wage jobs, as determined by the commission.

(b) Requires the commission, in developing guidelines for the job placement incentive program, to:

- define measures for higher-wage jobs based on locally appropriate indicators of the wages necessary to lift recipients of employment services out of poverty and into self-sufficiency; and
- involve representatives of local workforce development boards in developing guidelines for the program and the measures for higher-wage jobs.

(c) Requires the commission to administer the job placement incentive program through the local workforce development boards.

Sec. 302.010. POSTEMPLOYMENT SERVICES GUIDELINES. (a) Requires the commission to develop, by rule, guidelines under which local workforce development boards provide postemployment services to a recipient of financial assistance participating in an employment program under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code.

(b) Requires the commission to consider, in developing the guidelines, the difficulties the recipient is likely to encounter in acquiring additional education and training after becoming employed.

(c) Requires the commission to assist local workforce development boards in meeting the guidelines by providing information about model programs and best practices, including employer involvement in past employment services.

(d) Requires the commission to involve representatives of local workforce development boards and other appropriate organizations in developing the guidelines and identifying model programs and best practices.

Sec. 302.011. POSTEMPLOYMENT CASE MANAGEMENT. Requires the commission to encourage local workforce development boards to provide postemployment case management services for recipients of financial assistance who participate in employment programs under Chapter 31, Human Resources Code, and have, in comparison to other recipients, higher levels of barriers to employment.

SECTION 2. Requires the commission to develop, not later than January 1, 2002, the job placement incentive program and the postemployment services guidelines as required by this Act.

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

SECTION 4. Effective date: September 1, 2001.