

- SUBJECT:** Creating the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future
- COMMITTEE:** International Relations and Economic Development — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 6 ayes — Anchia, Blanco, Larson, Metcalf, Perez, Raney
- 1 nay — Cain
- 2 absent — Frullo, Romero
- WITNESSES:** For — Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Judea Goins-Andrews, Project Lead The Way; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Priscilla Camacho, Dallas Regional Chamber; Ben Melson and Lindsay Munoz, Greater Houston Partnership; Annie Spilman, NFIB; James Mathis, Occidental Petroleum; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; Mike Meroney, Texas Association of Manufacturers; Austin McCarty, Texas Chemical Council; Drew Scheberle, Greater Austin Chamber of Commerce)
- Against — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Jim Baxa)
- On — Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3511 would establish the Commission on Texas Workforce of the Future to engage businesses, state agencies, and local workforce system partners in the efforts of state and local authorities to build the state's workforce talent pipeline.
- Recommendations.** The commission would make recommendations to address issues related to workforce development and the future of the state's workforce, including:
- strengthening public-private partnerships that connected people with careers and employers with skilled talent;
 - improving regional coordination and alignment among industry,

the public workforce system, public schools, higher education, and community-based organizations to create college and career pathways;

- attracting, educating, developing, and placing workers in high-demand industry sectors;
- addressing the current and future skills gap across the state economy;
- increasing work-based learning opportunities, including for persons historically underrepresented in high-growth, high-wage industries;
- developing a plan to expand adult high school and industry certification charter school programs to meet industry needs; and
- making changes to the laws governing the public workforce system, public education, and higher education.

Members would be tasked with providing reliable and accurate data pertinent to college and career readiness, industry-based workforce credentials, associate and bachelor's degree programs, and high-demand industry jobs and careers.

Makeup, administration, and funding. The commission would be composed of 17 members who would be appointed by or would themselves be state government officials, as specified in the bill. In making appointments, state officials would have to coordinate to ensure that the members appointed to the commission reflected, to the extent possible, the ethnic and geographic diversity of Texas. The presiding officer of the commission would be a business executive designated by the governor.

The bill would require the commission to establish one or more working groups to study, discuss, and address specific policy issues. The commission would hold public meetings as needed to fulfill its duties. The commission would be subject to open government and public information laws.

Commissioners would not be entitled to compensation but would be entitled to reimbursement for actual and necessary expenses incurred in

performing their duties. Texas Education Agency (TEA) staff would provide administrative support for the commission. Funding for administrative and operational expenses of the commission would be provided by appropriations to TEA.

Report. By December 31, 2020, the commission would prepare and deliver a report to the governor and the Legislature making recommendations for statutory and regulatory changes to enhance workforce development. The commission would be abolished January 12, 2021.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

CSHB 3511 would engage businesses in defining current and future workforce needs and deepening partnerships with the state's education, workforce development, and economic development systems. This would contribute to the development of a future-ready workforce in which Texans had the skills they need to compete in a changing economy.

The bill would bring lawmakers into conversation with state agencies and other stakeholders to study the changing dynamics of the workforce and determine needed statutory and regulatory changes, which ultimately would contribute to a more limited and effective government.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

CSHB 3511 would represent an unnecessary expansion of government.