

EMPLOYMENT & HIGHER EDUCATION

04-08-2015 - 10:20:09

HB 174	Martinez Fischer, Trey(D)	Relating to requiring a living wage for those that do business with the state.
	Remarks:	Would require state agencies, vendors, and contractors and political subdivisions to pay employees the greater of \$10.10/hour or the federal minimum wage. This could be particularly significant for persons with disabilities working at subminimum wage and associated with the Texas State Use Program.
	Bill History:	02-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Business and Industry
HB 873	Sanford, Scott(R)	Relating to the publication of certain information regarding the vocational rehabilitation program on the Internet.
	Remarks:	Would require internet publication of vocational rehabilitation program success data on HHSC and DARS websites.
	Bill History:	03-30-15 H Committee action pending House Human Services
HB 1672	Gonzalez, Mary(D)	Relating to requiring public institutions of higher education to request student disciplinary records for certain applicants for admission to the institution.
	Remarks:	Would require higher education institution to request disciplinary records from other post-secondary institutions.
	Bill History:	03-09-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education
HB 3294	Burkett, Cindy(R)	Relating to the continuation and functions of the Texas Workforce Commission.
	Companions:	SB 208 Campbell, Donna (Identical) 3-16-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
	Remarks:	Would continue the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC) and move disability determination services and Business Enterprises of Texas (BET) from the Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services to TWC; includes sunset recommendations to combine vocational rehabilitation (VR) services and VR blind services, separating VR blind services from DARS blind children's program.
	Bill History:	04-09-15 H Meeting set for 8:00 A.M., E2.010 - House Economic and Small Business Development
HB 3685	Anderson, Doc(R)	Relating to the employment status of certain individuals engaged in rehabilitative work-training programs.
	Companions:	SB 1671 Lucio, Eddie (Identical) 3-23-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop
	Remarks:	Would require sheltered workshops and other employers of people with disabilities to report earnings or to follow transition plan with timeframes for employees to move from training into competitive employment.
	Bill History:	03-23-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Economic and Small Business Development

SB 36	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to requiring the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to maintain an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services for persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities.
Companions:	HB 1807 Naishtat, Elliott (Identical) 3-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Higher Education	
Remarks:	Would require Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board to keep, distribute, and update biennially an inventory of postsecondary educational programs and services provided by public colleges and universities to people with IDD. List would be shared on board's website and with TEA.	
Bill History:	01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education	

SB 37	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to a study of the participation of individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities in public higher education.
Companions:	HB 1811 Naishtat, Elliott (Identical) 3-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services	
Remarks:	Would require TEA to maintain data on participation of people with IDD in public higher education. Would require TEA and Comptroller to have MOU outlining how offices will work in conjunction.	
Bill History:	01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Higher Education	

SB 38	Zaffirini, Judith(D)	Relating to creation of an employment-first task force advisory committee.
Companions:	HB 1809 Naishtat, Elliott (Identical) 3-16-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services	
Remarks:	Would create advisory committee of 11 or fewer members to make recommendations to the Employment First Task Force on increasing post-secondary education and access for individuals with IDD. Advocates have recommended that the Higher Education Coordinating Board would be the more appropriate location for this committee.	
Bill History:	01-26-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Health and Human Services	

SB 212	Birdwell, Brian(R)	Relating to the abolishment of the Texas Council on Purchasing from People with Disabilities and the transfer of its functions to the comptroller of public accounts.
Companions:	HB 1989 Burkett, Cindy (Identical) 3-12-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services	
Remarks:	Would abolish TCPPD and move functions to the Comptroller. Would expand the advisory council to include people with disabilities who are employed by contractors under the State Use Program. Amendment to direct the administrating agency of the State Use Program to adopt policy requiring all CRPs to pay at least minimum wage was filed and will be considered on the Senate Floor.	
Bill History:	04-08-15 S Reported from committee as substituted Senate Health and Human Services	

SB 1052 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to the consideration of ownership interests of certain persons with disabilities in determining whether a business is a historically underutilized business for purposes of state contracting.

Companions: **HB 3010** Simmons, Ron (Identical)
3-27-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House State Affairs

Remarks: Would provide HUB status for businesses owned by people with disabilities. EFTF recommendation.

Bill History: 03-16-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Business and Commerce

SB 1559 Zaffirini, Judith(D) Relating to an interagency plan to promote competitive and integrated employment for persons with disabilities.

Remarks: Would require comptroller, TEA, TWC, HHSC and TCPPD to create transition plan by 1/16 to move people with disabilities into competitive integrated employment, with implementation due dates.

Bill History: 03-23-15 S Introduced and referred to committee on Senate Natural Resources and Economic Develop

SB 1664 Perry, Charles (F)(R) Relating to the establishment of the Texas Achieving a Better Life Experience (ABLE) Program.

Companions: **HB 3766** Burkett, Cindy (Identical)
3-23-15 H Introduced and referred to committee on House Human Services

Remarks: Would establish Texas ABLE Act accounts for persons who acquired their disability before age 26.

Bill History: 04-07-15 S Voted favorably from committee on Senate Business and Commerce

- End of Report -