

1 **Workforce Diploma Pilot Program**
2 **Discussion Paper**

3 **Background**

4 Texas Labor Code, Chapter 317, added by Senate Bill 1055, 86th Texas Legislature, Regular
5 Session (2019), and amended by House Bill 2575, 88th Texas Legislature, Regular Session
6 (2023), requires the Texas Workforce Commission (TWC), in consultation with the Texas
7 Education Agency (TEA), to establish and administer the Workforce Diploma Pilot Program
8 (program). As outlined in Chapter 317, the program allows eligible high school diploma-granting
9 entities to be reimbursed for helping adult students obtain high school diplomas and industry-
10 recognized credentials and develop technical career-readiness and employability skills.

11 **Issue**

12 Chapter 317 states, to the extent money is available for that purpose, TWC shall reimburse each
13 approved provider participating in the program for the achievement of the following milestones
14 by students receiving services from the provider:

- 15 • \$250 for the completion of a half credit
16 • \$250 for the completion of an employability skills certification program equal to at least one
17 credit or the equivalent
18 • \$250 for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring not more than 50
19 hours of training
20 • \$500 for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring at least 50 but not
21 more than 100 hours of training
22 • \$750 for the attainment of an industry-recognized credential requiring more than 100 hours
23 of training
24 • \$1,000 for the obtainment of a high school diploma

25 Chapter 317 also states that the approved providers participating in the program will be
26 reimbursed by TWC in the order in which invoices are received until all funds available are
27 exhausted.

28 A funding source for the program is not specified in Chapter 317; therefore, staff propose use of
29 Adult Education and Literacy (AEL) statewide funds to create and implement the program.

30 **Decision Point**

31 Staff recommends that TWC's three-member Commission set aside \$500,000 of AEL statewide
32 funds for the creation and implementation of the Workforce Diploma Pilot Program.