

HB 2038 -- WORKFORCE DIPLOMA PROGRAM

SPONSOR: Patterson

This bill establishes the Workforce Diploma Program. Before August 16, 2021, and annually thereafter, the Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development must submit a request for interested program providers for the program. An approved program provider must meet a list of qualifications, including but not limited to being an accredited high school diploma-granting entity and having a minimum of two years experience providing adult dropout recovery services.

Every year, the Department must announce the approved programs before October 16th. The approved program providers shall begin enrolling students starting before November 15th of each year. The Department shall pay approved program providers for the completion of milestones by each student: \$250 for the completion of each half unit of high school credit, \$250 for attaining an employability skills certification, \$250 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring no more than 50 hours of training, \$500 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring at least 51 but no more than 100 hours of training, \$750 for attaining an industry-recognized credential requiring more than 100 hours of training, and \$1,000 for attaining an accredited high school diploma.

No approved program provider shall receive funding if that provider receives federal or state funding or private tuition for the student. The Department must provide a written update to approved program providers by the last calendar day of each month.

Before July 16th of each year, each provider must report certain metrics, specified in this section, to the Department. Upon the second fiscal year of the program, the Department must review the metrics for each program provider and determine whether each provider is meeting the minimum performance standards. If a program provider does not meet the minimum standards for two consecutive years, that provider will be removed from the approved provider list.