



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 23, 2025

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TBLC Cheers the Passage of SB 1786 Further Enhancing Higher Education Outcomes and Addressing Workforce Needs

AUSTIN – Today Senate Bill 1786, authored by Senate Education K-16 Committee Chairman Brandon Creighton (Conroe), fully passed the Texas House with broad bipartisan support and is headed for the Governor’s desk. Aimed at strengthening the 88th Legislature’s historic community college outcomes bill, HB 8 (88R), the legislation will expand fundable outcomes to include transfers to private 4-year institutions in Texas, strengthen the credential of value methodology, and require biennial regional labor market assessments to empower colleges with data to better align educational programs with workforce needs.

The bill goes the distance to further enhance the intent of HB 8 (88R) and meet the goals of the Community College Finance Commission, chaired by TBLC member Woody Hunt, by ensuring that the credentials funded lead to good-paying jobs and address state and regional workforce needs.

TBLC Vice President of Policy Kelle Kieschnick said, “Thank you to Senator Creighton and Representative VanDeaver for your leadership in continuing the momentum created by HB 8 last session to boost our workforce and establish Texas as the national leader on postsecondary outcomes funding.”

TBLC President Justin Yancy said, “SB 1786 strengthens the community college outcomes model by ensuring the credentials of value funded lead to a self-sustaining wage and good ROI for students. Additionally, it helps address Governor Abbott’s emergency item to increase access to career training opportunities by requiring Tri-Agency coordination of competitive grants to expand CTE programs at both secondary and postsecondary levels.”

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