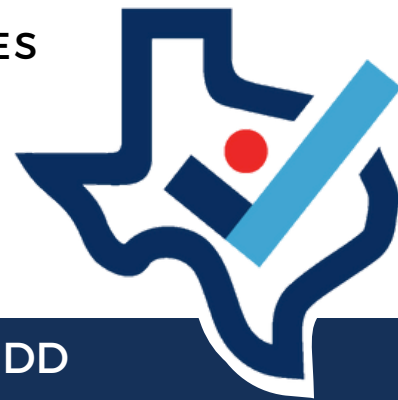


House Bill (HB) 2081

Rep. John Bucy III



Building Better Futures Program for Students with IDD

HB 2081 would establish the Building Better Futures Program. This program would facilitate funding for Comprehensive Transition and Postsecondary (CTP) programs for students with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) across higher education institutions in Texas. CTP programs would provide educational and occupational skills training opportunities and support services to students with IDD in an inclusive and age-appropriate environment. The bill lists eligibility criteria for institutions of higher education and for participating students.



The Higher Education Opportunity Act of 2008 allowed federal assistance to be used for approved CTP programs. These are designed for postsecondary students with IDD to continue academic, technical, career, and independent living training to prepare for employment.



Data show CTP programs to be effective at leading graduates to meaningful employment and improved economic self-sufficiency. Despite this, Texas has only 4 approved CTP programs, less than other states. Florida has 21, Tennessee has 7, Louisiana has 5, and Pennsylvania has 12.



In 2023, supporters of a similar bill included The Arc of Texas, National Association of Social Workers - Texas, Texas Association of Goodwills, the Texas Council of Community Centers, Texas Parent to Parent, and United Ways of Texas.



“Through meaningful post-secondary education and occupational training, we can help Texans with intellectual disabilities achieve increased self-sufficiency and access to employment. All Texans have the right to quality education and civic participation, and by passing this bill, we could help make that right a reality.”

Rep. John Bucy III