

By: Cunningham

H.B. No. 5261

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to designating the Windham School District to provide postsecondary education to inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Education Code, is amended by adding Sections 19.012 and 19.013 to read as follows:

Sec. 19.012. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION. The district and the department shall enter into a memorandum of understanding for the district to administer postsecondary education programs through partnerships with postsecondary educational institutions to inmates of the department.

Sec. 19.013. POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION ADVISORY BOARD. (a) The district shall establish a postsecondary education advisory board to advise the department regarding postsecondary education programs.

(b) The advisory board is composed of members who are relevant stakeholders, including:

(1) representatives of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

(2) representatives of the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation;

(3) representatives of the Texas Workforce Commission;

1           (4) representatives of public institutions of higher  
2 education on a rotating basis;

3           (5) representatives from an organization that  
4 represents the families of inmates of the department;

5           (6) representatives of an organization that advocates  
6 for the education of inmates of the department; and

7           (7) current or former inmates of the department.

8           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.