

By: Allen of Dallas

H.B. No. 2837

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2837:

By: Allen of Dallas

C.S.H.B. No. 2837

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the state's activities regarding education, vocational training, and reintegration of offenders.

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

SECTION 1. Section 19.004(c), Education Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) The district shall:

(1) develop educational ~~[and vocational training]~~ programs specifically designed for persons eligible under Section 19.005 and ensure that those programs, such as GED and ESL, are integrated with an applied vocational context leading to employment;

(1-a) develop vocational training programs specifically designed for persons eligible under Section 19.005 and prioritize the programs that result in certification or licensure, considering the impact that a previous felony conviction has on the ability to secure certification, licensure, and employment; and

(2) coordinate educational programs and services in the department with those provided by other state agencies, by political subdivisions, and by persons who provide programs and services under contract.

SECTION 2. Chapter 19, Education Code, is amended by adding Section 19.0041 to read as follows:

Sec. 19.0041. EVALUATION OF TRAINING SERVICES. (a) To

1 evaluate the effectiveness of training services provided to persons  
2 confined or imprisoned in the department, the Windham School  
3 District shall contract with an outside organization to compile and  
4 analyze information for each person who receives the training  
5 services. This information shall include an evaluation of:

6 (1) the kind of training services provided;

7 (2) the kind of employment the person obtains on  
8 release;

9 (3) whether the employment was related to training;

10 (4) the difference between the amount of the person's  
11 earnings on the date employment is obtained following release and  
12 the amount of those earnings on the first anniversary of that date;  
13 and

14 (5) the retention factors associated with the  
15 employment.

16 (b) The department shall submit an annual report to the  
17 Legislative Budget Board and the governor that evaluates the  
18 effectiveness of the training services. The outside organization  
19 that contracted with the Windham School District under Subsection  
20 (a) shall prepare the report based on data compiled and analyzed by  
21 the organization.

22 SECTION 3. Section 19.011, Education Code, is amended to  
23 read as follows:

24 Sec. 19.011. COORDINATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES. (a)  
25 In order to achieve the goals stated in Section 19.003, the district  
26 with the cooperation of the Health and Human Services Commission,  
27 the Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Texas Workforce

1 Commission, the Texas [~~Department of~~] Economic Development and  
2 Tourism Office, and the department shall provide persons confined  
3 or imprisoned in the department:

4 (1) information from local workforce and development  
5 boards on job training and employment referral services; and

6 (2) information on the tax refund voucher program  
7 under Subchapter H, Chapter 301, Labor Code.

8 (b) The district shall [~~may~~] coordinate vocational  
9 education and job training programs with a local workforce  
10 development board authorized by the Texas Workforce Commission to  
11 ensure that district students are equipped with the skills  
12 necessary to compete for current and emerging jobs [~~Investment~~  
13 ~~Council~~].

14 SECTION 4. Sections 306.001(2) and (4), Labor Code, are  
15 amended to read as follows:

16 (2) "Correctional institutions [~~Institutional~~]  
17 division" means the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]  
18 division of the department.

19 [~~(4) "State jail division" means the state jail~~  
20 ~~division of the department.~~]

21 SECTION 5. Section 306.002, Labor Code, is amended to read  
22 as follows:

23 Sec. 306.002. PROJECT RIO. The project for reintegration  
24 of offenders is a statewide employment referral program designed to  
25 reintegrate into the labor force persons sentenced to [~~a state jail~~  
26 ~~felony facility or~~] the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]  
27 division or [~~and persons~~] committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

1 SECTION 6. Section 306.005(a), Labor Code, is amended to  
2 read as follows:

3 (a) The memorandum of understanding between the department  
4 and the commission must establish the role of:

5 (1) the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]  
6 division [~~and the state jail division~~] in ascertaining and  
7 encouraging an inmate's chances for employment by:

8 (A) providing vocational and educational  
9 assessment for the person while incarcerated;

10 (B) developing a skills enhancement program for  
11 the person while incarcerated, in cooperation with other  
12 governmental, educational, and private entities, using available  
13 public or private financial resources authorized by statute; and

14 (C) referring the person on release to the  
15 project through the person's parole officer or supervision officer;

16 (2) the community justice assistance division and the  
17 parole [~~pardons and paroles~~] division of the department in:

18 (A) encouraging and referring persons to the  
19 project; and

20 (B) ensuring that those persons participate in  
21 the project and avail themselves of its services; and

22 (3) the commission in developing and maintaining a  
23 statewide network for finding positions of employment that require  
24 the skills possessed by project participants and in helping those  
25 participants to secure employment.

26 SECTION 7. Section 306.007, Labor Code, is amended to read  
27 as follows:

1           Sec. 306.007. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON STATE SERVICES  
2 FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND EMPLOYERS. (a) To assist in the reintegration  
3 into the labor force of persons formerly sentenced to the  
4 correctional institutions [~~institutional~~] division or committed to  
5 the Texas Youth Commission [~~state jail division~~], the commission  
6 through Project RIO shall provide:

7                   (1) to those persons:

8                           (A) information from local workforce development  
9 boards on job training and employment referral services;

10                           (B) information from the Department of State  
11 Health Services [~~Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse~~] on  
12 substance abuse treatment services;

13                           (C) information from the Texas Department of  
14 Housing and Community Affairs on housing services;

15                           (D) information from the Texas Veterans  
16 Commission on services for veterans; and

17                           (E) information on tax refund voucher programs  
18 under Subchapter H, Chapter 301; and

19                   (2) to the employers and potential employers of those  
20 persons:

21                           (A) information from the Texas [~~Department of~~]  
22 Economic Development and Tourism Office on the enterprise zone  
23 program; and

24                           (B) information from local workforce development  
25 boards on services listed in Section 2308.304, Government Code.

26           (b) The commission shall adopt a memorandum of  
27 understanding with each of the following agencies that establishes

1 the respective responsibilities of the commission and the agencies  
2 in providing information described by Subsection (a) to persons  
3 formerly sentenced to the institutional division or the state jail  
4 division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, to employers  
5 or potential employers of those persons, and to local workforce  
6 development boards:

7 (1) the Department of State Health Services [~~Texas~~  
8 ~~Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse~~];

9 (2) the Texas Department of Housing and Community  
10 Affairs;

11 (3) the Texas Veterans Commission; and

12 (4) the Health and [~~Texas Department of~~] Human  
13 Services Commission [~~+~~

14 [~~(5) the Texas Department of Economic Development,~~  
15 ~~and~~

16 [~~(6) the Texas Workforce Investment Council.~~

17 [~~(c) The commission shall coordinate the development of the~~  
18 ~~memoranda of understanding and shall prepare an annual report~~  
19 ~~describing the number of ex-offenders in the preceding year~~  
20 ~~receiving services under each memorandum. The commission shall~~  
21 ~~file a copy of the annual report with the governor's office].~~

22 SECTION 8. Chapter 306, Labor Code, is amended by adding  
23 Section 306.008 to read as follows:

24 Sec. 306.008. DATA SHARING. (a) To assist in the  
25 reintegration into the labor force of persons formerly sentenced to  
26 the correctional institutions division or committed to the Texas  
27 Youth Commission, the commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and

1 the department shall establish a data interface that, at a minimum,  
2 provides to the commission:

3 (1) detailed information about persons released from a  
4 correctional facility who might benefit from post-release Project  
5 RIO services, including:

6 (A) demographic and identifying information;

7 (B) the person's address on release;

8 (C) a comprehensive state offense history,  
9 including the date of release from the correctional facility,  
10 sentence discharge date, and conditions of parole;

11 (D) assessment information;

12 (E) educational and work history;

13 (F) information related to participation in the  
14 work against recidivism program operated by the department's  
15 manufacturing and logistics division under the Texas Correctional  
16 Industries office; and

17 (G) other services provided under this title  
18 before release from the correctional facility; and

19 (2) referral information from the department and the  
20 Texas Youth Commission necessary to implement the provision of  
21 post-release employment services.

22 (b) The data interface established under Subsection (a)  
23 must be designed to provide to a person's supervising officer on  
24 release information about the person's participation in employment  
25 services and entry into the workforce.

26 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.