

1-1 By: Allen of Dallas (Senate Sponsor - Seliger) H.B. No. 2837
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 11, 2005;
1-3 May 13, 2005, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal
1-4 Justice; May 20, 2005, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-5 Yeas 4, Nays 0; May 20, 2005, sent to printer.)

1-6 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-7 AN ACT

1-8 relating to the state's activities regarding education, vocational
1-9 training, and reintegration of offenders.

1-10 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-11 SECTION 1. Section 19.004(c), Education Code, is amended to
1-12 read as follows:

1-13 (c) The district shall:

1-14 (1) develop educational [~~and vocational training~~]
1-15 programs specifically designed for persons eligible under Section
1-16 19.005 and ensure that those programs, such as GED and ESL, are
1-17 integrated with an applied vocational context leading to
1-18 employment;

1-19 (1-a) develop vocational training programs
1-20 specifically designed for persons eligible under Section 19.005 and
1-21 prioritize the programs that result in certification or licensure,
1-22 considering the impact that a previous felony conviction has on the
1-23 ability to secure certification, licensure, and employment; and

1-24 (2) coordinate educational programs and services in
1-25 the department with those provided by other state agencies, by
1-26 political subdivisions, and by persons who provide programs and
1-27 services under contract.

1-28 SECTION 2. Chapter 19, Education Code, is amended by adding
1-29 Section 19.0041 to read as follows:

1-30 Sec. 19.0041. EVALUATION OF TRAINING SERVICES. (a) To
1-31 evaluate the effectiveness of training services provided to persons
1-32 confined or imprisoned in the department, the Windham School
1-33 District shall consult with the Legislative Budget Board to compile
1-34 and analyze information for each person who receives the training
1-35 services. This information shall include an evaluation of:

1-36 (1) the kind of training services provided;

1-37 (2) the kind of employment the person obtains on
1-38 release;

1-39 (3) whether the employment was related to training;

1-40 (4) the difference between the amount of the person's
1-41 earnings on the date employment is obtained following release and
1-42 the amount of those earnings on the first anniversary of that date;
1-43 and

1-44 (5) the retention factors associated with the
1-45 employment.

1-46 (b) The Legislative Budget Board shall submit an annual
1-47 report to the legislature and the governor's office based on data
1-48 compiled and analyzed under Subsection (a).

1-49 SECTION 3. Section 19.011, Education Code, is amended to
1-50 read as follows:

1-51 Sec. 19.011. COORDINATION WITH OTHER STATE AGENCIES. (a)
1-52 In order to achieve the goals stated in Section 19.003, the district
1-53 with the cooperation of the Health and Human Services Commission,
1-54 the Texas Workforce Investment Council, the Texas Workforce
1-55 Commission, the Texas [Department of] Economic Development and
1-56 Tourism Office, and the department shall provide persons confined
1-57 or imprisoned in the department:

1-58 (1) information from local workforce and development
1-59 boards on job training and employment referral services; and

1-60 (2) information on the tax refund voucher program
1-61 under Subchapter H, Chapter 301, Labor Code.

1-62 (b) The district shall [~~may~~] coordinate vocational
1-63 education and job training programs with a local workforce
1-64 development board authorized by the Texas Workforce Commission to

2-1 ensure that district students are equipped with the skills
 2-2 necessary to compete for current and emerging jobs [~~Investment~~
 2-3 ~~Council~~].

2-4 SECTION 4. Sections 306.001(2) and (4), Labor Code, are
 2-5 amended to read as follows:

2-6 (2) "Correctional institutions [~~Institutional~~]
 2-7 division" means the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]
 2-8 division of the department.

2-9 [~~(4) "State jail division" means the state jail~~
 2-10 ~~division of the department.~~]

2-11 SECTION 5. Section 306.002, Labor Code, is amended to read
 2-12 as follows:

2-13 Sec. 306.002. PROJECT RIO. The project for reintegration
 2-14 of offenders is a statewide employment referral program designed to
 2-15 reintegrate into the labor force persons sentenced to [~~a state jail~~
 2-16 ~~felony facility or~~] the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]
 2-17 division or [~~and persons~~] committed to the Texas Youth Commission.

2-18 SECTION 6. Section 306.005(a), Labor Code, is amended to
 2-19 read as follows:

2-20 (a) The memorandum of understanding between the department
 2-21 and the commission must establish the role of:

2-22 (1) the correctional institutions [~~institutional~~]
 2-23 division [~~and the state jail division~~] in ascertaining and
 2-24 encouraging an inmate's chances for employment by:

2-25 (A) providing vocational and educational
 2-26 assessment for the person while incarcerated;

2-27 (B) developing a skills enhancement program for
 2-28 the person while incarcerated, in cooperation with other
 2-29 governmental, educational, and private entities, using available
 2-30 public or private financial resources authorized by statute; and

2-31 (C) referring the person on release to the
 2-32 project through the person's parole officer or supervision officer;

2-33 (2) the community justice assistance division and the
 2-34 parole [~~pardons and paroles~~] division of the department in:

2-35 (A) encouraging and referring persons to the
 2-36 project; and

2-37 (B) ensuring that those persons participate in
 2-38 the project and avail themselves of its services; and

2-39 (3) the commission in developing and maintaining a
 2-40 statewide network for finding positions of employment that require
 2-41 the skills possessed by project participants and in helping those
 2-42 participants to secure employment.

2-43 SECTION 7. Section 306.007, Labor Code, is amended to read
 2-44 as follows:

2-45 Sec. 306.007. PROVISION OF INFORMATION ON STATE SERVICES
 2-46 FOR EX-OFFENDERS AND EMPLOYERS. (a) To assist in the reintegration
 2-47 into the labor force of persons formerly sentenced to the
 2-48 correctional institutions [~~institutional~~] division or committed to
 2-49 the Texas Youth Commission [~~state jail division~~], the commission
 2-50 through Project RIO shall provide:

2-51 (1) to those persons:
 2-52 (A) information from local workforce development
 2-53 boards on job training and employment referral services;

2-54 (B) information from the Department of State
 2-55 Health Services [~~Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse~~] on
 2-56 substance abuse treatment services;

2-57 (C) information from the Texas Department of
 2-58 Housing and Community Affairs on housing services;

2-59 (D) information from the Texas Veterans
 2-60 Commission on services for veterans; and

2-61 (E) information on tax refund voucher programs
 2-62 under Subchapter H, Chapter 301; and

2-63 (2) to the employers and potential employers of those
 2-64 persons:

2-65 (A) information from the Texas [~~Department of~~]
 2-66 Economic Development and Tourism Office on the enterprise zone
 2-67 program; and

2-68 (B) information from local workforce development
 2-69 boards on services listed in Section 2308.304, Government Code.

3-1 (b) The commission shall adopt a memorandum of
3-2 understanding with each of the following agencies that establishes
3-3 the respective responsibilities of the commission and the agencies
3-4 in providing information described by Subsection (a) to persons
3-5 formerly sentenced to the institutional division or the state jail
3-6 division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, to employers
3-7 or potential employers of those persons, and to local workforce
3-8 development boards:

3-9 (1) the Department of State Health Services [~~Texas~~
3-10 ~~Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse~~];

3-11 (2) the Texas Department of Housing and Community
3-12 Affairs;

3-13 (3) the Texas Veterans Commission; and

3-14 (4) the Health and [~~Texas Department of~~] Human
3-15 Services Commission [+

3-16 [~~(5) the Texas Department of Economic Development,~~
3-17 and

3-18 [~~(6) the Texas Workforce Investment Council.~~

3-19 [~~(c) The commission shall coordinate the development of the~~
3-20 ~~memoranda of understanding and shall prepare an annual report~~
3-21 ~~describing the number of ex-offenders in the preceding year~~
3-22 ~~receiving services under each memorandum. The commission shall~~
3-23 ~~file a copy of the annual report with the governor's office].~~

3-24 SECTION 8. Chapter 306, Labor Code, is amended by adding
3-25 Section 306.008 to read as follows:

3-26 Sec. 306.008. DATA SHARING. (a) To assist in the
3-27 reintegration into the labor force of persons formerly sentenced to
3-28 the correctional institutions division or committed to the Texas
3-29 Youth Commission, the commission, the Texas Youth Commission, and
3-30 the department shall establish a data interface that, at a minimum,
3-31 provides to the commission:

3-32 (1) detailed information about persons released from a
3-33 correctional facility who might benefit from post-release Project
3-34 RIO services, including:

3-35 (A) demographic and identifying information;

3-36 (B) the person's address on release;

3-37 (C) a comprehensive state offense history,
3-38 including the date of release from the correctional facility,
3-39 sentence discharge date, and conditions of parole;

3-40 (D) assessment information;

3-41 (E) educational and work history;

3-42 (F) information related to participation in the
3-43 work against recidivism program operated by the department's
3-44 manufacturing and logistics division under the Texas Correctional
3-45 Industries office; and

3-46 (G) other services provided under this title
3-47 before release from the correctional facility; and

3-48 (2) referral information from the department and the
3-49 Texas Youth Commission necessary to implement the provision of
3-50 post-release employment services.

3-51 (b) The data interface established under Subsection (a)
3-52 must be designed to provide to a person's supervising officer on
3-53 release information about the person's participation in employment
3-54 services and entry into the workforce.

3-55 (c) Information received from the Texas Youth Commission
3-56 under this section is confidential and is not subject to disclosure
3-57 under Chapter 552, Government Code.

3-58 SECTION 9. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.

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