

By: Deshotel

H.B. No. 160

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation and administration of a community-based at-risk youth program.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 33, Education Code, is amended by adding Subchapter G to read as follows:

SUBCHAPTER G. EDUCATION AND SELF-SUFFICIENCY PROGRAM

Sec. 33.251. PROGRAM. The agency, in conjunction with the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, shall administer the Education and Self-Sufficiency Program as described by this subchapter.

Sec. 33.252. STATE DIRECTOR. The commissioner shall designate a state director for the Education and Self-Sufficiency Program.

Sec. 33.253. DUTIES OF STATE DIRECTOR. The state director shall coordinate community-based efforts to:

(1) assist students at risk of dropping out of school, as defined by Section 29.081, to develop a foundation for a well-balanced and appropriate education from early childhood education through middle and junior high school through the use of:

(A) small school campuses that permit highly personal learning environments and that offer a culturally sensitive curriculum;

(B) a variety of instructional and interactive

1 methods to develop self-respect, self-confidence, and students'
2 leadership skills; and

3 (C) after-school enrichment programs to help
4 students complete homework and improve academic skills;

5 (2) provide at least two years of mentoring for high
6 school students qualified and planning to pursue a postsecondary
7 education;

8 (3) provide vocational education training for high
9 school students who do not plan to pursue a postsecondary
10 education; and

11 (4) provide high school graduates who do not plan to
12 pursue a postsecondary education and parents of students adult job
13 training, including job readiness training and vocational
14 education training, and job placement assistance to assist those
15 high school graduates and parents in transitioning from job
16 training into the workforce.

17 Sec. 33.254. PARTICIPATION IN PROGRAM. A community-based
18 organization may participate in the program if the organization has
19 a proven track record of successfully working independently in an
20 area identified in Section 33.253.

21 Sec. 33.255. FUNDING; DONATIONS. (a) The state director
22 shall solicit and may accept federal funds, state funds, private
23 contributions, grants, and public and school district funds to
24 support the activities of the Education and Self-Sufficiency
25 Program.

26 (b) The state director may accept a donation of services or
27 money or other property that the state director determines furthers

1 the lawful objectives of the program. Each donation, with the name
2 of the donor and the purpose of the donation, must be reported in
3 the public records of the program.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.