

By: Miles, et al.
(White)

S.B. No. 677

Substitute the following for S.B. No. 677:

By: White

C.S.S.B. No. 677

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a task force to identify opportunities for academic credit and industry recognition for 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 Section 19.012 to read as follows:

Sec. 19.012. TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC CREDIT AND INDUSTRY RECOGNITION. (a) The Windham School District, in consultation with the department, shall establish a task force to review the work or other productive activities in which persons confined or imprisoned in the department engage.

(b) The task force is composed of the following 10 members:

(1) two representatives of the department designated by the executive director of the department;

(2) one representative of the district designated by the superintendent of the district;

(3) one representative of the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board designated by the commissioner of higher education;

(4) one representative of the Texas Workforce Commission designated by the executive director of the commission;

(5) one representative of a private vendor operating a correctional facility under a contract with the department,

1 appointed by the governor;

2 (6) three representatives of public junior colleges,
3 as defined by Section 61.003, appointed by the governor, including:

4 (A) at least one representative of a public
5 junior college that provides education services to persons confined
6 or imprisoned in the department; and

7 (B) at least one representative of a public
8 junior college that does not provide services described by
9 Paragraph (A); and

10 (7) one representative of a faith-based organization,
11 appointed by the governor.

12 (c) The governor shall designate a member of the task force
13 to serve as presiding officer.

14 (d) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same
15 manner as the initial appointment.

16 (e) A member of the task force may not receive compensation
17 for service on the task force but is entitled to reimbursement for
18 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force
19 duties.

20 (f) The task force may accept gifts and grants from any
21 source to be used to carry out a function of the task force.

22 (g) The task force shall meet at the call of the presiding
23 officer.

24 (h) The task force shall:

25 (1) conduct an ongoing comprehensive review of the
26 work or other productive activities in which persons confined or
27 imprisoned in the department engage; and

1 (2) identify opportunities for the award of high
2 school credit, college credit, or joint high school and college
3 credit, or the award of an industry-recognized credential or
4 certificate, for engaging in that work or activity.

5 (i) The district, in consultation with the department, the
6 Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
7 Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall, for any type of
8 work or productive activity for which an opportunity is identified
9 under Subsection (h), determine the actions necessary for obtaining
10 the award of the applicable academic credit or industry
11 recognition.

12 (j) Not later than September 1, 2021, the task force shall
13 submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the
14 house of representatives, and the standing committees of the
15 legislature having jurisdiction over the department a report that
16 summarizes the review conducted under Subsection (h) and the
17 district's actions with regard to obtaining the award of academic
18 credit or industry recognition under Subsection (i). The district
19 shall provide the task force with any information necessary to
20 complete the report.

21 (k) This section expires December 1, 2021.

22 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2017, the executive
23 director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the
24 superintendent of the Windham School District, the commissioner of
25 higher education, the executive director of the Texas Workforce
26 Commission, and the governor shall appoint members to the task
27 force established by Section 19.012, Education Code, as added by

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1 this Act, in the manner required by Subsection (b) of that section.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.