

By: Hughes, Bettencourt

S.B. No. 1177

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requirements for charter schools established for the benefit of certain juvenile offenders.

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

SECTION 1. Section 221.0071, Human Resources Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 221.0071. CHARTER SCHOOL. (a) Notwithstanding any other law and in addition to the number of charters allowed under Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code, the commissioner of education may grant a charter on the application of a detention, correctional, or residential facility established only for juvenile offenders under Section 51.12, 51.125, or 51.126, Family Code, or an eligible entity that has entered into a contract with a facility described by this subsection.

(b) If a local detention, correctional, or residential facility described by Subsection (a) or an eligible entity that has entered into a contract with a facility described by Subsection (a) applies for a charter, the facility or the eligible entity must provide all educational opportunities and services, including special education instruction and related services, that a school district is required under state or federal law to provide for students residing in the district through a charter school operated in accordance with and subject to Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code.

1       (c) The commissioner of education shall adopt a form and  
2 procedure to allow a detention, correctional, or residential  
3 facility described by Subsection (a) or an eligible entity that has  
4 entered into a contract with a facility described by Subsection (a)  
5 to apply for a charter. The application form and procedure must be  
6 comparable to the applicable requirements of Section 12.110,  
7 Education Code, and must include any requirements provided under  
8 Subchapter D, Chapter 12, Education Code.

9       (d) A charter school operating under a charter granted under  
10 this section is entitled to receive open-enrollment charter school  
11 funding under Chapter 42, Education Code, in the same manner as an  
12 open-enrollment charter school operating under Subchapter D,  
13 Chapter 12, Education Code.

14       (e) The commissioner of education shall adopt rules  
15 necessary to implement this section, including rules that modify  
16 the requirements for charter schools provided under Chapter 12,  
17 Education Code, as necessary to allow a charter school to operate in  
18 a detention, correctional, or residential facility described by  
19 Subsection (a).

20       (f) In this section, "eligible entity" has the meaning  
21 assigned by Section 12.101(a), Education Code.

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