

By: Reynolds

H.R. No. 387

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Reducing recidivism is key to controlling costs in
2 the correctional system; and

3 WHEREAS, In the 1980s, Texas launched Project Re-Integration
4 of Offenders, better known as Project RIO, to prepare inmates to
5 participate in the workforce following their release; coordinated
6 by the Texas Workforce Commission and the Texas Department of
7 Criminal Justice, the initiative provided job assessment
8 specialists to train inmates for employment; upon release, former
9 prisoners received referrals to Project RIO through their parole
10 officers; by 1998, the program had a pool of more than 12,000
11 employers willing to hire former offenders; and

12 WHEREAS, The National Institute of Justice, a program of the
13 U.S. Department of Justice, praised Project RIO as one of the most
14 ambitious state government programs for placing parolees in jobs;
15 it published an extensive report citing marked improvement in the
16 percentage of former inmates securing employment and a significant
17 reduction in the percentage of high-risk parolees reincarcerated;
18 and

19 WHEREAS, Considerable hard evidence has shown that when
20 inmates find decent jobs soon after release, they are less likely to
21 resume criminal behavior, and Project RIO has played a vital role in
22 preparing offenders for a successful transition to life beyond
23 prison walls; now, therefore, be it

24 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas

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1 Legislature hereby express support for the full reinstatement of
2 Project Re-Integration of Offenders; and, be it further

3 RESOLVED, That the chief clerk forward an official copy of
4 this resolution to the executive directors of the Texas Department
5 of Criminal Justice and of the Texas Workforce Commission.