

By: Hull

H.R. No. 161

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, Since 2004, the Prison Entrepreneurship Program has  
2 equipped Texas inmates with valuable skills and resources that help  
3 them achieve a successful reentry into society; and

4 WHEREAS, PEP is a nonprofit organization that aims to  
5 transform the lives of its participants through completion of a  
6 character development program and an entrepreneurship boot camp; to  
7 join PEP, inmates must make it through a highly selective  
8 application process, and those who are accepted are transferred to  
9 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Estes Unit, near Dallas,  
10 or Bell Unit, near Houston; in the course of the program,  
11 participants take part in a business plan competition and complete  
12 numerous classes; upon graduation, they are honored in a formal  
13 ceremony and awarded a Certificate in Entrepreneurship from the  
14 Baylor University Hankamer School of Business; and

15 WHEREAS, After being released from prison, PEP graduates have  
16 experienced high rates of employment and low rates of recidivism,  
17 and they continue to benefit from PEP resources such as eSchool  
18 classes, the Communitas Business Centers, and family reunification  
19 initiatives; to date, those who have completed the program have  
20 established more than 500 businesses, including five that generate  
21 over \$1 million in gross annual revenue; and

22 WHEREAS, Among its many accolades, PEP has earned the Texas  
23 Governor's Award for Criminal Justice Volunteer Service, and it was  
24 named a Rising Star in the Fast Company/Monitor Group Social

1 Capitalist Awards; furthermore, it ranked as a finalist for the  
2 Peter F. Drucker Award for Nonprofit Innovation and an Ashoka  
3 Changemakers award; and

4 WHEREAS, The Prison Entrepreneurship Program is excelling in  
5 its mission of helping former inmates to become productive  
6 citizens, and numerous individuals and communities have benefited  
7 from its successful efforts; now, therefore, be it

8 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 87th Texas  
9 Legislature hereby commend the Prison Entrepreneurship Program and  
10 extend to all those associated with the organization sincere best  
11 wishes for continued success; and, be it further

12 RESOLVED, That an official copy of this resolution be  
13 prepared for the Prison Entrepreneurship Program as an expression  
14 of high regard by the Texas House of Representatives.