

By: A. Johnson of Harris

H.B. No. 4450

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an adult high school pilot program for certain inmates and defendants in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle G, Chapter 493, Government Code is amended by adding Section 493.035 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.035. ADULT HIGH SCHOOL PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish a pilot program under which one or more nonprofit entities provide an adult education program under Subchapter G, Chapter 12, Education Code, to enable inmates described by Subsection (b) to successfully complete a high school program that can lead to a diploma.

(b) An inmate who is at least 26 years of age and not more than 50 years of age is eligible to enroll in an adult high school program operated under the pilot program if:

(1) the inmate:

(A) has failed to complete the curriculum requirements for high school graduation; or

(B) has failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment instrument required for high school graduation; and

(2) the department approves the inmate's enrollment in the program after:

(A) assessing the inmate's suitability for

1 participation in the program using the results of the risk and needs
2 assessment instrument adopted under Section 501.0921; and

3 (B) evaluating the inmate's conduct while in the
4 custody of the department.

5 (c) In admitting inmates to an adult high school education
6 program operated under the pilot program, the nonprofit entity
7 shall give priority to an inmate who has not earned a high school
8 equivalency certificate.

9 (d) The department shall issue a request for proposals from
10 nonprofit entities described by Section 12.256, Education Code, to
11 provide an adult high school education program under the pilot
12 program. The department shall require that each applicant identify
13 each region of this state in which the applicant is able to operate
14 an adult high school education program under this pilot program.

15 (e) The department shall contract with at least one
16 qualified applicant to operate an adult high school education
17 program under the pilot program.

18 (f) The department, in consultation with each nonprofit
19 entity that the department contracts with under this section, shall
20 identify at least three and not more than five facilities operated
21 by the department that are suitable to serve as sites for the pilot
22 program.

23 SECTION 2. Not later than December 31, 2023, the Texas
24 Department of Criminal Justice shall issue the request for
25 proposals required by Section 493.035(d), Government Code, as added
26 by this Act. Not later than September 1, 2024, the Texas Department
27 of Criminal Justice shall ensure that at least one adult high school

1 education program required by Section 493.035, Government Code, as
2 added by this Act, be in operation in a facility operated by the
3 department.

4 SECTION 3. 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, 2023.