

SUBJECT: Establishing an adult education program in the Windham School District

COMMITTEE: Corrections — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 8 ayes — Herrero, Kaca Allen, V. Jones, R. Lopez, Sherman, Swanson, Toth
0 nays
1 absent — Murr

WITNESSES: For — Theresa Rappaport, Goodwill Excel Adult High School; Charlie Malouff, Texas C.U.R.E., Inc; Steven Price, The VOICES of Our Veterans (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Terra Tucker, Alliance for Safety and Justice; James Parnell, Dallas Police Association; Jennifer Carter, Goodwill Central Texas; Ray Hunt, Houston Police Officers' Union; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; John Litzler, Texas Baptists Christian Life Commission; John Wilkerson, Texas Municipal Police Association; AJ Louderback, Texas Sheriffs Regional Alliance; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops)

Against — None

On — Kristina Hartman, Windham School District (*Registered, but did not testify*: Robert O'Banion, Windham School District)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that individuals reentering the community after being incarcerated may lack the knowledge, skills, and training needed to secure stable employment, increasing the risk of recidivism.

DIGEST: CSHB 4921 would require the Windham School District to establish a pilot program under which one or more nonprofit entities would provide an adult high school charter school program to enable certain people to successfully complete a high school program that could lead to a diploma.

A person confined or imprisoned in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice who was between 26 and 50 years old could enroll in an adult education program operated under the pilot program if the person:

- had failed to complete the curriculum requirements for high school graduation;
- had failed to perform satisfactorily on an assessment required for high school graduation; or
- had failed to earn a high school equivalency certificate.

The district would be required to enter into a memorandum of understanding with at least one nonprofit entity that met certain qualifications to provide an adult education program under the pilot program. In consultation with each nonprofit with which the district entered into a memorandum of understanding, the district would be required to identify at least three schools operated by the district that would be suitable to serve as sites for the pilot program.

The district would be required to establish and implement the pilot program by September 1, 2024.

This bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2023.