

1-1 By: Miles, Burton S.B. No. 677
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed January 31, 2017; February 15, 2017,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
 1-4 April 10, 2017, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 8,
 1-5 Nays 0; April 10, 2017, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15			X	
1-16	X			

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the creation of a task force to identify opportunities
 1-20 for academic credit and industry recognition for inmates of the
 1-21 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

1-22 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-23 SECTION 1. Chapter 19, Education Code, is amended by adding
 1-24 Section 19.012 to read as follows:

1-25 Sec. 19.012. TASK FORCE ON ACADEMIC CREDIT AND INDUSTRY
 1-26 RECOGNITION. (a) The Windham School District, in consultation
 1-27 with the department, shall establish a task force to review the work
 1-28 or other productive activities in which persons confined or
 1-29 imprisoned in the department engage.

1-30 (b) The task force is composed of the following seven
 1-31 members:

1-32 (1) two representatives of the department designated
 1-33 by the executive director of the department;

1-34 (2) one representative of the district designated by
 1-35 the superintendent of the district;

1-36 (3) one representative of the Texas Higher Education
 1-37 Coordinating Board designated by the commissioner of higher
 1-38 education;

1-39 (4) one representative of the Texas Workforce
 1-40 Commission designated by the executive director of the commission;

1-41 (5) one representative of a private vendor operating a
 1-42 correctional facility under a contract with the department,
 1-43 appointed by the governor; and

1-44 (6) one representative of a public junior college, as
 1-45 defined by Section 61.003, appointed by the governor.

1-46 (c) The governor shall designate a member of the task force
 1-47 to serve as presiding officer.

1-48 (d) A vacancy on the task force shall be filled in the same
 1-49 manner as the initial appointment.

1-50 (e) A member of the task force may not receive compensation
 1-51 for service on the task force, but is entitled to reimbursement for
 1-52 actual and necessary expenses incurred in performing task force
 1-53 duties.

1-54 (f) The task force may accept gifts and grants from any
 1-55 source to be used to carry out a function of the task force.

1-56 (g) The task force shall meet at least quarterly at the call
 1-57 of the presiding officer and at other times as determined by the
 1-58 presiding officer.

1-59 (h) The task force shall:

1-60 (1) conduct an ongoing comprehensive review of the
 1-61 work or other productive activities in which persons confined or

2-1 imprisoned in the department engage; and

2-2 (2) identify opportunities for the award of high
 2-3 school credit, college credit, or joint high school and college
 2-4 credit, or the award of an industry-recognized credential or
 2-5 certificate, for engaging in that work or activity.

2-6 (i) The district, in consultation with the department, the
 2-7 Texas Education Agency, the Texas Higher Education Coordinating
 2-8 Board, and the Texas Workforce Commission, shall for any type of
 2-9 work or productive activity for which an opportunity is identified
 2-10 under Subsection (h), determine the actions necessary for obtaining
 2-11 the award of the applicable academic credit or industry
 2-12 recognition.

2-13 (j) Not less than once every four years, the task force
 2-14 shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker
 2-15 of the house of representatives, and the standing committees of the
 2-16 legislature having jurisdiction over the department a report that
 2-17 summarizes the review conducted under Subsection (h) and the
 2-18 district's actions with regard to obtaining the award of academic
 2-19 credit or industry recognition under Subsection (i). The district
 2-20 shall provide the task force with any information necessary to
 2-21 complete the report.

2-22 (k) Chapter 2110, Government Code, does not apply to the
 2-23 task force established under this section.

2-24 (l) The task force shall submit the first report required
 2-25 under Subsection (j) not later than December 31, 2020. This
 2-26 subsection expires February 1, 2021.

2-27 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2017, the executive
 2-28 director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice, the
 2-29 superintendent of the Windham School District, the commissioner of
 2-30 higher education, the executive director of the Texas Workforce
 2-31 Commission, and the governor shall appoint members to the task
 2-32 force established by Section 19.012, Education Code, as added by
 2-33 this Act, in the manner required by Subsection (b) of that section.

2-34 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.

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