

SUBJECT: Coordinating a plan for student transitioning from alternative program

COMMITTEE: Public Education — committee substitute recommended

VOTE: 12 ayes — Huberty, Bernal, Allison, Ashby, K. Bell, Dutton, M.
González, K. King, Meyer, Sanford, Talarico, VanDeaver

0 nays

1 absent — Allen

WITNESSES: For — Sarah Beebe, Disability Rights Texas; Latashia Crenshaw, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department; Annalee Gulley, MHA Of Greater Houston; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Cynthia Humphrey, Association of Substance Abuse Programs; Andrea Chevalier, Association of Texas Professional Educators; Jason Sabo, Children at Risk; Chris Masey, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities; Ender Reed, Harris County Commissioners Court; Ashlea Turner, Houston ISD; Lindsay Lanagan, Legacy Community Health; Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Will Francis, National Association of Social Workers-Texas Chapter; Josette Saxton, Texans Care for Children; Christine Broughal, Texans for SPED Reform; Amanda List, Texas Appleseed; Lonnie Hollingsworth, Texas Classroom Teachers Association; Leela Rice, Texas Council of Community Centers; Jan Friese, Texas Counseling Association; Morgan Craven, Texas Latino Education Coalition; Kyle Ward, Texas PTA; Lisa Dawn-Fisher, Texas State Teachers Association; Nataly Saucedo, United Ways of Texas; Audrey Spanko)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Terri Hanson and Monica Martinez, Texas Education Agency)

DIGEST: CSHB 2184 would require an alternative education program to provide written notice regarding the student's release from the program and would require the school administrator of the student's home campus to

coordinate the student's transition, including the creation of a personalized transition plan for the student.

Definitions. The bill would define "alternative education program" as:

- a disciplinary alternative education program operated by a school district or open-enrollment charter school;
- a juvenile justice alternative education program; or
- a residential program or facility operated by or under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a juvenile board, or any other governmental entity.

Alternative education program duties. The bill would require an alternative education program, as soon as practicable after having determined the date of a student's release from the program, to provide a written notice of that date to the student's parent or a guardian and to the administrator of the campus to which the student intended to transition.

The alternative education program would provide to the administrator an assessment of the student's academic growth while attending the alternative education program and the results of any assessment instruments administered to the student.

School administrator duties. The bill would require the campus administrator to coordinate the student's transition to a regular classroom within five instructional days of the student's release date, including the implementation of a personalized transition plan.

The coordination would include assistance and recommendations from school counselors, school district peace officers, school resource officers, licensed clinical social workers, campus behavior coordinators, classroom teachers who were or could be responsible for implementing the student's personalized transition plan, and any other appropriate school district personnel.

The personalized transition plan would be required to include

recommendations for the best educational placement of the student, which could include:

- recommendations for counseling, behavioral management, or academic assistance, with a concentration on the student's academic or career goals;
- recommendations for assistance for obtaining access to mental health services provided by the district or school, a local mental health authority, or another private or public entity;
- the provision of information to the student's parent or a guardian about the process to request a full individual and initial evaluation of the student for purposes of special education services; and
- a regular review of the student's progress toward the student's academic or career goals.

The bill would apply only to a student who was subject to compulsory school attendance requirements, and would apply beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

The 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, 2019.