

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

Senate Research Center  
77R8000 CAS-F

H.B. 946  
By: Telford (Cain)  
Education  
5/3/2001  
Engrossed

### **DIGEST AND PURPOSE**

Texas public schools provide an excellent opportunity to teach character education and civic responsibility to children and adolescents. The widespread implementation of character education programs may help reduce disciplinary problems, improve the learning environment, and promote student achievement without proselytizing or indoctrinating the students concerning any specific religious or political belief. To be effective, character education programs must incorporate ideas from the community. H.B. 946 authorizes and encourages school districts to implement character education programs after consulting with a committee consisting of educators, parents, and other community members.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

This bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

### **SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS**

SECTION 1. Chapter 29Z, Education Code, by adding Section 29.903, as follows:

Sec. 29.903. CHARACTER EDUCATION PROGRAM. (a) Authorizes a school district to provide a character education program.

(b) Requires a character education program to include certain criteria.

(c) Requires a school district to consult with a committee selected by the district that consists of certain persons.

(d) Sets forth that this section does not require or authorize proselytizing or indoctrinating concerning any specific religious or political belief.

(e) Requires the Texas Education Agency (agency) to perform certain procedures.

(f) Authorizes the agency to accept money from federal government and private sources to use in assisting school districts in implementing character education programs that meet the criteria prescribed by Subsection (b).

SECTION 2. Provides that this Act applies beginning with the 2001-2002 school year.

SECTION 3. Effective date: upon passage or September 1, 2001.