
Allowing TJJD to reduce residential program sentences for certain children

HB 3195 by Wu (Whitmire)

Digest

HB 3195 would have allowed the Texas Juvenile Justice Department (TJJD) to reduce the amount of time that certain children committed to the department by a court could have been required to spend in highly structured residential programs. The bill also would have removed the ability of a juvenile board or local juvenile probation department to require a child to participate in such a program.

HB 3195 would have repealed a requirement that a child in a TJJD educational program could not be released on parole unless the child participated in the positive behavior support system and reading instruction.

The bill would have established procedures for program and campus administrators to follow when a date had been determined for the release of a student from an alternative education program. As part of the procedures, campus administrators would have had to develop a personalized transition plan for each student.

Governor's reason for veto

“Parts of House Bill 3195 are unnecessary because they duplicate provisions of House Bill 2184, which I have already signed into law. But among its other changes, House Bill 3195 would remove an important requirement: that juvenile offenders participate in certain educational programs before being eligible for parole. This requirement is intended to improve the literacy skills and behavior of juvenile offenders so that recidivism rates decrease. It should not be eliminated.”

Response

Neither **Rep. Gene Wu**, the bill's author, nor **Sen. John Whitmire**, the Senate sponsor, had a comment on the veto.

Notes

[HB 3195](#) was digested in Part Three of the April 24 *Daily Floor Report*.