



House Bill 2184 (Allen | White | Wu | Phelan) | Senate Bill 1155 (Huffman) Transition to Success: Support for Justice-Involved Youth Returning to School

What does HB 2184 | SB 1155 bill do?

This bill creates a pathway back to school for justice-involved youth. The legislation requires school districts to coordinate the student's transition to a regular classroom through the creation of individualized transition plans.

The campus administrator must begin coordinating the student's transition, including the creation of a transition plan, within five instructional days following a youth's release from a disciplinary alternative education program, a juvenile justice alternative education program, a residential program or facility operated by-or-under contract with the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, a juvenile board, or any other governmental entity. The transition plan must be created prioritizing the student's academic success and may include provision of counseling, behavioral management assistance, or academic assistance; and access to community mental health or substance abuse services. Parents will be included, if possible.

What problem does HB 2184 | SB 1155 solve?

Education is the key to a successful life, reducing juvenile recidivism, and ending the school-to-prison-pipeline. For a child returning to school following a disciplinary placement in the judicial system, the transition from one facility to another is not easy. There are a variety of individual, school, and systemic factors that must be addressed if young people are to successfully return to schools.

Through collaboration and planning, administrators serving transitioning youth can prepare students, from entry through discharge, for their return to their home-based school, enabling them to resume educational services successfully – and lowering their recidivism chances.

Has similar legislation been filed?

During the 85th legislative session, House Bill 2623 was authored by Representative Alma Allen and Representative Senfronia Thompson and sponsored by Senator Judith Zaffirini. As drafted for the 86th legislative session, this bill removes residential treatment centers and hospitals from the list of impacted facilities. Narrowing the scope to include solely juvenile justice facilities serves to better support the transitions of justice-involved youth back to school.

How much does HB 2184 | SB 1155 cost?

While the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) has not yet scored the bill, similar legislation filed in the 85th legislative session was determined to have no significant fiscal impact to the state.

Who is likely to support this legislation?

Mental Health America's Texas affiliates, Disability Rights Texas, Harris County Juvenile Probation Department, Texas Classroom Teachers Association, the National Association of Social Workers – Texas Chapter, Legacy Community Health, Children at Risk, Texans Care for Children, the Mayor's Office - City of Houston, Houston Independent School District and NAMI Texas and its affiliates, among others.

Who is likely to oppose this legislation?

Currently, there is no known opposition.

For questions or comments, please contact:
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