

AN ACT

relating to a Buffalo Soldier Heritage pilot program for at-risk youth.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. PURPOSE. It is the intent of the legislature that the state's resources be used to impact the growth of juvenile crime. The legislature recognizes the importance of involving elements of government and private industry in the early lifestages of youth who are considered at risk.

SECTION 2. PILOT PROGRAM. (a) The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall establish and oversee a Buffalo Soldier Heritage pilot program in Bexar, Dallas, Tarrant, Tom Green, and Washington counties using the Washington County program as a guide. The purpose of the pilot program is to enable targeted at-risk children to develop character, improve self-esteem, and learn the benefits of hard work and the rewards associated with self-improvement through Buffalo Soldier Heritage curriculum and outdoor skills instruction.

(b) In implementing the pilot program the Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall:

- (1) adopt rules and establish a timetable to implement the program;
- (2) assist in establishing an advisory council for each county that is composed of local officials, community leaders, and other interested citizens, especially high-profile individuals who are role models for teenagers;
- (3) designate a program officer for the county;
- (4) provide grants to the county or a local group to establish the program; and
- (5) contract for curriculum development with colleges and universities having experience in minority issues.

(c) The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall, when possible, contract with entities that have experience in developing and delivering programs with purposes similar to the purposes of the Buffalo Soldier Heritage program to assist the department in operating these pilot

programs.

SECTION 3. DEADLINE. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall establish the pilot program required by this Act not later than January 1, 1996.

SECTION 4. REPORT. The Texas Juvenile Probation Commission shall submit to the governor and the 75th and 76th legislatures an initial report concerning the effectiveness of the pilot program.

SECTION 5. EXPIRATION DATE. This Act expires September 1, 1999.

SECTION 6. EMERGENCY. The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendars in both houses create an emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional rule requiring bills to be read on three several days in each house be suspended, and this rule is hereby suspended.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2031 was passed by the House on May 11, 1995, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2031 was passed by the Senate on May 27, 1995, by a viva-voce vote.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor