

The Governor

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Executive Orders MW-16

Creating and Establishing the Governor's Criminal Justice Education Project Advisory Committee.

WHEREAS, some 85,000 juveniles will be arrested in Texas this year, and

WHEREAS, the cost of incarceration of juvenile and adult offenders grows steadily each year; and

WHEREAS, noted penal researchers have long recognized that a high percentage of adult criminals first engaged in criminal behavior as juveniles; and

WHEREAS, these and other experts have concluded that preventing juveniles from developing patterns of criminal behavior should receive high priority as a means for prevention of adult criminal behavior; and

WHEREAS, one of the prevention strategies experts has recommended as having good potential to accomplish this result is law focused education through the public schools to create respect for the law and a person's rights and responsibilities under the law; and

WHEREAS, a Criminal Justice Education Committee is needed to assist in the development of such a program;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Mark White, governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me, do hereby create and establish the Governor's Criminal Justice Education Project Advisory Committee, hereafter referred to as the committee, to consist of 17 persons to be appointed by the governor and to include a chairperson and vice-chairperson who shall serve in these positions at the pleasure of the governor.

Staff work for the committee will be provided by the Office of the Governor under the direction of a project director and staff selected for this purpose.

The committee will make recommendations and act in an advisory capacity to the Office of the Governor on the following:

- (1) the development of an education program for elementary and middle schools in Texas that teaches children to understand and respect the laws;
- (2) the operation of a pilot program in a representative sample of from 20 to 30 elementary and middle schools; and
- (3) the furnishing of technical assistance to school districts which desire to implement this program with local resources.

Upon completion of these objectives, the committee will:

- (1) oversee the evaluation of the operation of the pilot program;
- (2) make suggestions for changes and improvements; and
- (3) make recommendations as to the feasibility and desirability of the continuation and expansion of this program.

Committee members shall serve without a salary but may be reimbursed for expenses incurred while attending officially called meetings at the same rates as received by members of statutory state boards under the General Appropriations Act. Service on the committee shall be considered an additional duty of any state or local officers or employees appointed thereto.

The committee shall convene at least twice at the call of the chair. A majority shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business, and a vote of the majority of those present shall be sufficient for passage of all committee recommendations.

All agencies of the state and local government are hereby directed to cooperate with and assist the committee in the performance of its duties.

This executive order shall be effective immediately and shall remain in full force and effect until modified, amended, or rescinded by me.

Issued in Austin, Texas, on January 30, 1984.

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Mark White
Governor of Texas