

HB 2546 -- LABOR FOR OFFENDERS

SPONSOR: Hurst

This bill specifies that the Director of the Department of Corrections has the authority to require every able-bodied offender under commitment to the department to engage in hard labor for at least 40 hours per week, subject to certain provisions specified in the bill. The bill details how the director shall establish a labor classification system. No offender assigned to perform hard labor shall be considered an employee or to be employed by the state, regardless of whether the offender is compensated.

The bill further specifies that, if evidence as a whole justifies a sentence of death, the judge, in a jury-waived trial, or the jury shall consider whether the defendant's continued life may result in the defendant receiving hard labor assignments. If the defendant's life would not result in the defendant receiving hard labor assignments, the court may sentence the defendant to death. If, however, the judge or the jury determines that the defendant's continued life may result in the defendant receiving hard labor assignments, the defendant shall not be sentenced to death.