

1-1 By: Shaheen, et al. (Senate Sponsor - Paxton) H.B. No. 460
 1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House April 19, 2021;
 1-3 May 4, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal
 1-4 Justice; May 20, 2021, reported favorably by the following vote:
 1-5 Yeas 5, Nays 0; May 20, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7 Whitmire	X			
1-8 Huffman	X			
1-9 Bettencourt			X	
1-10 Birdwell			X	
1-11 Hinojosa	X			
1-12 Miles	X			
1-13 Nichols	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the solicitation of pen pals by certain inmates of the
 1-18 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

1-19 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-20 SECTION 1. Chapter 500, Government Code, is amended by
 1-21 adding Section 500.009 to read as follows:

1-22 Sec. 500.009. PEN PAL SOLICITATION PROHIBITED. (a) This
 1-23 section applies only to an inmate confined in a facility operated by
 1-24 or under contract with the department who is serving a sentence for
 1-25 an offense for which registration as a sex offender is required
 1-26 under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

1-27 (b) The department shall adopt a policy that prohibits an
 1-28 inmate described by Subsection (a) from placing an advertisement
 1-29 soliciting a pen pal on an Internet website operated for that
 1-30 purpose, regardless of whether another person submits or pays for
 1-31 the advertisement for the inmate.

1-32 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2021, the Texas
 1-33 Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt the policy required by
 1-34 Section 500.009, Government Code, as added by this Act.

1-35 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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