

By: West

S.B. No. 697

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to an annual report by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice on post-release or post-discharge employment and certain other inmate data.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.036 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.036. ANNUAL REPORT ON POST-RELEASE OR POST-DISCHARGE EMPLOYMENT AND CERTAIN OTHER INMATE DATA. (a) Not later than January 30 of each year, the department shall:

(1) submit to the legislature a report that includes:

(A) the number of inmates confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the department during the previous state fiscal year, disaggregated by offense, parole eligibility, race, ethnicity, and gender;

(B) the following employment information for inmates released or discharged from the department during the previous state fiscal year:

(i) the average amount of time for the inmate to obtain employment following release or discharge, disaggregated by whether the inmate received training through career and technical education programs organized or sponsored by the department or the Windham School District; and

(ii) the number of inmates who applied for

1 and the number who received an occupational license following
2 release or discharge; and

3 (C) the following information for inmates
4 released or discharged from the department during the previous
5 three state fiscal years, disaggregated by facility of release or
6 discharge:

7 (i) the number of inmates employed,
8 categorized by industry; and

9 (ii) the median wage of the inmates
10 employed, categorized by industry; and

11 (2) publish the report on the department's Internet
12 website.

13 (b) The department may enter into an agreement with the
14 Texas Workforce Commission or other third parties as necessary to
15 facilitate the department's duties under Subsection (a).

16 (c) The board may adopt rules necessary to administer this
17 section.

18 SECTION 2. Not later than January 30, 2026, the Texas
19 Department of Criminal Justice shall submit the first report
20 required by Section 493.036(a), Government Code, as added by this
21 Act.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.