

## **BILL ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 28  
By: Hodge  
Corrections  
Committee Report (Substituted)

### **BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

Under current law, the state jail division is required to develop work programs and programs for rehabilitation, education and recreation. However, Chapter 507 of the Government Code does not give direction as to the use of volunteers to assist with rehabilitation and education of state jail offenders. Volunteer hours and resources come at no cost to the state and can be an integral part of rehabilitation of offenders. C.S.H.B. 28 requires the state jail division of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to allow capable offenders to tutor functionally illiterate offenders and to actively encourage volunteer organizations to assist with rehabilitative services.

### **RULEMAKING AUTHORITY**

It is the committee's opinion that this bill does not expressly grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, department, agency, or institution.

### **ANALYSIS**

C.S.H.B. 28 adds Government Code Section 507.033, Rehabilitation Programs, and requires the state jail division to allow capable defendants to serve as a tutor for illiterate defendants and to encourage volunteer organizations to aid in the tutoring. The bill specifies that tutors may not exercise supervisory authority over other defendants.

The bill also requires the state jail division to actively encourage volunteer organizations to provide: literacy and education programs; life skills programs; job skills programs; parent-training programs; drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs; support group programs; arts and crafts programs; and other programs determined by the division to aid defendants in making a successful transition back into the community.

### **EFFECTIVE DATE**

Upon passage, or, if the Act does not receive the necessary vote, the Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

### **COMPARISON OF ORIGINAL TO SUBSTITUTE**

C.S.H.B. 28 removes the provision in the original that required the state jail division to establish a program to teach reading to functionally illiterate defendants. The substitute also removes the provision in the original that required the state jail division to adopt a memorandum of understanding with the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation, the Texas Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, and the Texas Workforce Commission on their respective responsibilities for continuity of care for defendants with history of drug abuse, alcohol abuse, or chronic unemployment.