

By: Hodge

H.B. No. 28

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to rehabilitation programs for defendants housed in state
3 jail felony facilities.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 507, Government Code, is
6 amended by adding Section 507.033 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 507.033. REHABILITATION PROGRAMS. (a) The state jail
8 division shall establish a program to teach reading to functionally
9 illiterate defendants housed in facilities operated by or under
10 contract with the division. The division shall allow a defendant
11 who is capable of serving as a tutor to tutor functionally
12 illiterate defendants and shall actively encourage volunteer
13 organizations to aid in the tutoring of defendants. The division,
14 the defendant to be tutored, and the person who tutors the defendant
15 jointly shall establish reading goals for the defendant to be
16 tutored. A person who acts as a tutor may function only as a teacher
17 and advisor to a defendant and may not exercise supervisory
18 authority or control over the defendant.

19 (b) The state jail division, the Texas Department of Mental
20 Health and Mental Retardation, and the Texas Commission on Alcohol
21 and Drug Abuse by rule shall adopt a memorandum of understanding
22 that establishes their respective responsibilities to establish a
23 continuity of care program for defendants with a history of drug or
24 alcohol abuse who are housed in facilities operated by or under

1 contract with the division.

2 (c) The state jail division and the Texas Workforce
3 Commission by rule shall adopt a memorandum of understanding that
4 establishes their respective responsibilities to establish a
5 continuity of care program for defendants with a history of chronic
6 unemployment who are housed in facilities operated by or under
7 contract with the division.

8 (d) The state jail division and the Texas Workforce
9 Commission by rule shall adopt a memorandum of understanding that
10 establishes their respective responsibilities for providing
11 defendants who are housed in facilities operated by or under
12 contract with the division and who are released into the community
13 with a network of centers designed to provide education,
14 employment, and other support services based on a "one stop for
15 service" approach.

16 (e) The state jail division shall actively encourage
17 volunteer organizations to provide the following programs for
18 defendants who are housed in facilities operated by or under
19 contract with the division:

- 20 (1) literacy and education programs;
- 21 (2) life skills programs;
- 22 (3) job skills programs;
- 23 (4) parent-training programs;
- 24 (5) drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs;
- 25 (6) support group programs;
- 26 (7) arts and crafts programs; and
- 27 (8) other programs determined by the division to aid

1 defendants confined in state jail felony facilities in the
2 transition from confinement or supervision back into society and to
3 reduce incidents of recidivism among defendants.

4 SECTION 2. (a) The state jail division of the Texas
5 Department of Criminal Justice, the Texas Department of Mental
6 Health and Mental Retardation, and the Texas Commission on Alcohol
7 and Drug Abuse shall enter into the memoranda of understanding
8 required by Section 507.033(b), Government Code, as added by this
9 Act, not later than January 1, 2004.

10 (b) The state jail division and the Texas Workforce
11 Commission shall enter into the memoranda of understanding required
12 by Section 507.033(c), Government Code, as added by this Act, not
13 later than January 1, 2004.

14 (c) The state jail division and the Texas Workforce
15 Commission shall enter into the memoranda of understanding required
16 by Section 507.033(d), Government Code, as added by this Act, not
17 later than January 1, 2004.

18 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
19 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
20 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
21 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
22 Act takes effect September 1, 2003.