

By: Kolkhorst

H.B. No. 864

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to prohibiting the introduction or possession of certain
3 items in correctional facilities or on certain property of the
4 Texas Department of Criminal Justice; providing penalties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 38.11, Penal Code, is amended by
7 amending Subsections (a), (d), and (e) and adding Subsection (j) to
8 read as follows:

9 (a) A person commits an offense if the person provides:

10 (1) an alcoholic beverage, controlled substance, or
11 dangerous drug to an inmate of a correctional facility, except on
12 the prescription of a physician;

13 (2) a deadly weapon to an inmate of a correctional
14 facility; or

15 (3) a cellular telephone or money to an inmate of a
16 correctional facility operated by or under contract with the Texas
17 Department of Criminal Justice.

18 (d) A person commits an offense if the person:

19 (1) possesses a controlled substance or dangerous drug
20 while:

21 (A) [(1)] on property owned, used, or controlled
22 by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice; or

23 (B) [(2)] in a correctional facility; or

24 (2) possesses a deadly weapon while in a correctional

1 facility.

2 (e) It is an affirmative defense to prosecution under
3 Subsection (d)(1) of this section that the person possessed the
4 controlled substance or dangerous drug pursuant to a prescription
5 issued by a practitioner or while delivering the substance or drug
6 to a warehouse, pharmacy, or physician on property owned, used, or
7 controlled by the department. It is an affirmative defense to
8 prosecution under Subsection (d)(2) of this section that the person
9 possessing the deadly weapon is a peace officer or is an officer or
10 employee of the correctional facility authorized to possess the
11 deadly weapon while on duty or traveling to or from the person's
12 place of assignment.

13 (j) A person commits an offense if the person while an
14 inmate of a correctional facility operated by or under contract
15 with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice possesses a cellular
16 telephone.

17 SECTION 2. The heading to Section 38.11, Penal Code, is
18 amended to read as follows:

19 Sec. 38.11. PROHIBITED SUBSTANCES AND ITEMS IN CORRECTIONAL
20 FACILITY OR ON PROPERTY OF TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE.

21 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies
22 only to an offense committed on or after the effective date of this
23 Act. For purposes of this section, an offense is committed before
24 the effective date of this Act if any element of the offense occurs
25 before the effective date.

26 (b) An offense committed before the effective date of this
27 Act is covered by the law in effect when the offense was committed,

1 and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

2 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.