

By: Allen

H.B. No. 1854

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the participation of inmates in work programs at the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 497, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 497.0031 to read as follows:

Sec. 497.0031. CLASSIFICATION; LIMITATION ON USE OF FACILITIES. (a) The manager of a work facility is a voting member of the unit classification committee for the unit in which the work facility is located.

(b) An inmate who is not classified as a minimum custody inmate is not eligible for participation as a work program participant.

(c) The department may not assign to a work facility work program participants in excess of the number determined by the manager of the facility to be:

(1) necessary to produce a product or provide a service; or

(2) the proper number of work program participants to engage in a job training program.

SECTION 2. Section 497.004(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) In assigning work program participants to available job training positions in work facilities [~~factories~~], the department

1 shall consider each participant's [~~classification~~ and]
2 availability for work. The department shall give priority to work
3 program participants closest to release from imprisonment or
4 supervision in making assignment to those job training positions
5 that provide the most marketable skills.

6 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.