

By: Haggerty

H.B. No. 574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the provision of pay telephone service to inmates
3 confined in facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal
4 Justice.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 495, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 495.025 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 495.025. INMATE PAY TELEPHONE SERVICE. (a) The board
9 shall request proposals from private vendors for contracts to
10 provide pay telephone service to inmates. The board may not
11 consider a proposal or award a contract to provide the service
12 unless under the contract the vendor:

13 (1) provides for installation, operation, and
14 maintenance of the service without any cost to the state; and

15 (2) pays the department a commission of 40 percent of
16 the gross revenue received from inmate telephone use.

17 (b) The board may award one contract or a series of regional
18 contracts to one or more private vendors to install, operate, and
19 maintain the telephone service. The term of the contract may not be
20 less than three years.

21 (c) The money received under this section may be
22 appropriated only to the department for use by the department in
23 accomplishing department purposes.

24 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2005.