

Amend CSSB 909 (House Committee Printing) by adding the following appropriately numbered SECTIONS to the bill and renumbering subsequent SECTIONS of the bill accordingly:

SECTION _____. Subchapter B, Chapter 495, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 495.025 and 495.026 to read as follows:

Sec. 495.025. CERTAIN COMMISSARY CONTRACTS; TASTE TESTS. (a) For the purchase of commissary food goods, the department may conduct a taste test as consideration for a bid award only if, to conduct the test, the department contracts with a private marketing vendor, a university, or another independent organization that is experienced in food product evaluation and taste tests.

(b) In awarding a bid for commissary food goods for which a taste test is conducted, the department may use the taste test results as not more than 30 percent of the criteria used for the bid award.

(c) A contract into which the department enters under Subsection (a) must require the vendor, university, or other organization, at the expense of the vendor, university, or organization, to annually re-conduct the taste test to ensure that the product meets the original specifications of the request for proposal that resulted in the department entering a contract for the tested product.

Sec. 495.026. PRODUCT BUNDLING, BULK PURCHASING, AND VENDOR DISCOUNTS. The department may provide for the practice of bundling products into categories to ensure savings through bulk purchasing, discounts for advance invoice payments, and online ordering.

SECTION _____. Sections 495.025 and 495.026, Government Code, as added by this Act, apply only to a contract that the Texas Department of Criminal Justice enters on or after the effective date of this Act. A contract that the department enters before the effective date of this Act is governed by the law in effect at the time the contract is entered, and that law is continued in effect for that purpose.