

By: Hodge

H.B. No. 608

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to access to television by inmates confined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in death row segregation.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.020 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.020. ACCESS TO TELEVISION BY INMATE CONFINED IN DEATH ROW SEGREGATION. (a) The department shall establish a policy that:

(1) allows an inmate confined in death row segregation to purchase from the commissary a television for in-cell use; and

(2) specifies the manner in which an inmate may use the in-cell television.

(b) The department may only offer for sale in the commissary a model of television that does not pose a threat to the health or safety of any department staff member or inmate.

(c) Proceeds from the sale of televisions to inmates confined in death row segregation shall be deposited to the credit of the general revenue fund.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2007.