

By: Madden

H.B. No. 3226

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment of temporary housing costs for certain inmates who are eligible for parole.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 508, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 508.157 to read as follows:

Sec. 508.157. TEMPORARY HOUSING ON RELEASE. (a) This section applies only to an inmate who is eligible for parole and has not been released on parole solely because a permanent post-release residence has not been located or established for the inmate.

(b) The department may issue to an inmate described by Subsection (a) a voucher or debit card to be used by the inmate to pay for the cost of temporary post-release housing that meets any conditions or requirements imposed by the parole panel.

(c) The amount of a voucher or debit card issued under Subsection (b) may not exceed an amount that is equal to the cost the department would incur to incarcerate the inmate for 30 days.

(d) The department shall pay the cost of a voucher or debit card issued under Subsection (b) out of funds appropriated by the legislature to the department for use in administering the parole system with respect to the housing of inmates on their release.

(e) The executive director of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this section.

1 SECTION 2. Section 508.141(e), Government Code, is amended
2 to read as follows:

3 (e) A parole panel may release an inmate on parole only
4 when:

5 (1) arrangements have been made for the inmate's
6 employment or for the inmate's maintenance and care, which may
7 include the issuance of a voucher or debit card under Section
8 508.157; and

9 (2) the parole panel believes that the inmate is able
10 and willing to fulfill the obligations of a law-abiding citizen.

11 SECTION 3. The executive director of the Texas Department
12 of Criminal Justice shall adopt the rules required by Section
13 508.157, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than
14 January 1, 2010.

15 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only
16 to an inmate released on parole on or after January 1, 2010.

17 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
18 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
19 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
20 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
21 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.