

By: England

H.B. No. 3439

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the development and use of an inmate skills development assessment instrument by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.032 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.032. SKILLS DEVELOPMENT ASSESSMENT. (a) The department shall develop an inmate skills development assessment instrument to evaluate the functional capacity of an inmate in the following areas:

(1) academic ability, including intellectual functioning, literacy, and language skills;

(2) vocational and career development, including employment history, career development, institutional work history, and prospects for post-incarceration employment;

(3) establishing and maintaining interpersonal relationships, including the existence of any ongoing contact with family members or other support systems, the ability to fulfill parental responsibilities and duties, and communication skills;

(4) wellness maintenance, including health promotion and disease prevention, disease and illness management, and knowledge concerning eligibility for and procedures for obtaining governmental assistance;

(5) mental health maintenance, including substance

1 abuse management, mental illness management, and the ability to
2 identify and manage inappropriate sexual behavior;

3 (6) general behavior, including cognitive behavior,
4 criminal behavior and history, and history of domestic violence or
5 other abuse;

6 (7) character, including personal characteristics and
7 personal responsibilities;

8 (8) leisure activities, including the appropriate use
9 of leisure time; and

10 (9) skills needed in daily life, including financial
11 management, the ability to secure and maintain housing, and skills
12 needed to care for one's family.

13 (b) The department shall consult with the Texas
14 Correctional Office on Offenders with Medical and Mental
15 Impairments, the Department of State Health Services, the
16 Department of Assistive and Rehabilitative Services, and the Texas
17 Workforce Commission in developing the inmate skills development
18 assessment instrument under Subsection (a).

19 (c) The department shall:

20 (1) not later than the 90th day after the date an
21 inmate is placed in the custody of the department, evaluate the
22 inmate using the inmate skills development assessment instrument
23 developed under Subsection (a);

24 (2) use the inmate skills development assessment
25 instrument under Subsection (a) as a guide in deciding the
26 rehabilitative services and programs in which to place an inmate;

27 (3) maintain a record for each inmate of the results of

1 any inmate skills development assessment administered under this
2 section;

3 (4) not later than the 90th day before any release or
4 discharge date applicable to an inmate, reevaluate the inmate using
5 the inmate skills development assessment instrument to prepare a
6 post-incarceration transition plan for the inmate; and

7 (5) as soon as practicable after the reevaluation of
8 an inmate under Subdivision (4) and not later than the 30th day
9 before any release or discharge date applicable to an inmate,
10 provide the results of the reevaluation and the post-incarceration
11 transition plan to any reentry or reintegration office operated by
12 the county or municipality into which the inmate will be released or
13 discharged.

14 (d) The department may periodically reevaluate an inmate
15 using the inmate skills development assessment instrument to
16 determine the inmate's progress in skill development and, if
17 necessary, to place the inmate in different rehabilitative services
18 and programs.

19 SECTION 2. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall
20 develop the inmate skills development assessment instrument as
21 required by Section 493.032, Government Code, as added by this Act,
22 not later than April 1, 2010.

23 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.