

By: Marquez, Hodge, Madden

H.B. No. 3649

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a policy regarding the receipt of books by mail by an inmate in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.0051 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.0051. RECEIPT OF BOOKS BY MAIL. (a) The department shall establish a policy that permits an inmate to receive by mail reference books and other educational materials from a volunteer organization that operates programs described by Section 501.009, regardless of whether the organization provides those programs to inmates housed in facilities operated by the department.

(b) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement this section, including rules to:

(1) provide for screening of packages sent to inmates;
(2) prohibit inmates from receiving books that might assist them in committing crimes, such as books on escaping prison;
and

(3) define the terms "reference books" and "educational materials."

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall establish the policy required by Section 501.0051, Government Code,

1 as added by this Act.

2 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.