

1-1 By: Marquez, Hodge, Madden H.B. No. 3649
1-2 (Senate Sponsor - Whitmire)
1-3 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 7, 2009;
1-4 May 8, 2009, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal
1-5 Justice; May 20, 2009, reported favorably by the following vote:
1-6 Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 20, 2009, sent to printer.)

1-7 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-8 AN ACT

1-9 relating to a policy regarding the receipt of books by mail by an
1-10 inmate in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

1-11 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-12 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is
1-13 amended by adding Section 501.0051 to read as follows:

1-14 Sec. 501.0051. RECEIPT OF BOOKS BY MAIL. (a) The
1-15 department shall establish a policy that permits an inmate to
1-16 receive by mail reference books and other educational materials
1-17 from a volunteer organization that operates programs described by
1-18 Section 501.009, regardless of whether the organization provides
1-19 those programs to inmates housed in facilities operated by the
1-20 department.

1-21 (b) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement
1-22 this section, including rules to:

1-23 (1) provide for screening of packages sent to inmates;

1-24 (2) prohibit inmates from receiving books that might
1-25 assist them in committing crimes, such as books on escaping prison;
1-26 and

1-27 (3) define the terms "reference books" and
1-28 "educational materials."

1-29 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
1-30 of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall
1-31 establish the policy required by Section 501.0051, Government Code,
1-32 as added by this Act.

1-33 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
1-34 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
1-35 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
1-36 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
1-37 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

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