

By: Ortiz, Jr.

H.B. No. 3721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the training and certification of certain members or former members of the military as correctional officers.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.034 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.034. TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION OF CERTAIN MEMBERS OF THE MILITARY AS CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS. (a) The department shall establish and implement a streamlined program to train and certify as a correctional officer an individual who is:

(1) a member of a reserve component of the United States armed forces; or

(2) a former member of the United States armed forces or a reserve component of the United States armed forces who has received an honorable or general discharge.

(b) To the extent practicable, the department shall model the program established under this section after the Troops to Teachers program operated by the United States Department of Education and Department of Defense.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall establish and implement a program to train and certify members and former members of the military as correctional officers as required by Section 493.034, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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