

By: Farias, Lucio III

H.B. No. 634

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the verification of an inmate's veteran status by 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 501.023 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.023. VERIFICATION OF INMATE VETERAN STATUS. (a) In this section, "system" means the Public Assistance Reporting Information System (PARIS) operated by the Administration for Children and Families of the United States Department of Health and Human Services.

(b) The department shall:

(1) investigate and verify the veteran status of each inmate by using data made available from the system through the Health and Human Services Commission; and

(2) use system data to assist inmates who are veterans in applying for federal benefits or compensation for which the inmates may be eligible under a program administered by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2013.