

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2652

Substitute the following for H.B. No. 2652:

By: White

C.S.H.B. No. 2652

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1

AN ACT

2 relating to providing inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal
3 Justice with information regarding reentry and reintegration
4 resources.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 501, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 501.0971 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 501.0971. PROVISION OF REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION
9 INFORMATION TO INMATES. (a) The department shall identify
10 organizations that provide reentry and reintegration resource
11 guides and shall collaborate with those organizations to make the
12 resource guides available to all inmates. At a minimum, the
13 department shall collaborate with:

14 (1) nonprofit entities that specialize in criminal
15 justice issues;

16 (2) faith-based organizations; and

17 (3) organizations that:

18 (A) offer pro bono legal services to inmates; or

19 (B) are composed of the families and friends of
20 inmates.

21 (b) The department shall make the resource guides available
22 in the Windham School District libraries and in each of the
23 following areas of a correctional facility:

24 (1) law libraries;

1 (2) peer educator classrooms;
2 (3) chapels;
3 (4) reintegration specialist offices; and
4 (5) any area or classroom that is used by the
5 department for the purpose of providing information about reentry
6 to inmates.

7 (c) The department shall make available a sufficient number
8 of copies of the resource guides to ensure that each inmate is able
9 to access a resource guide in a timely manner.

10 (d) The department shall identify organizations described
11 by Subsections (a)(1) through (3) that provide information
12 described by Subsection (e) and shall collaborate with those
13 organizations to compile county-specific information packets for
14 inmates. The department shall provide a county-specific
15 information packet to an inmate not less than six months before the
16 inmate will discharge the inmate's sentence or as soon as
17 practicable before releasing the inmate on parole, mandatory
18 supervision, or conditional pardon.

19 (e) At the minimum, a county-specific packet described by
20 Subsection (d) must include, for the applicable county:

21 (1) contact information, including telephone numbers,
22 e-mail addresses, physical locations, and mailing addresses, as
23 applicable, of:

24 (A) workforce offices, housing options, places
25 of worship, support groups, peer-to-peer counseling groups, and
26 other relevant organizations or agencies as determined by the
27 department and the collaborating organization;

1 (B) agencies and organizations that offer
2 emergency assistance, such as food and clothing banks, temporary
3 bus passes, low-cost medical assistance, and overnight and
4 temporary housing; and

5 (C) agencies and organizations that offer mental
6 health counseling; and

7 (2) information necessary for the inmate to apply for
8 governmental assistance or benefits, including Medicaid, social
9 security benefits, or nutritional assistance programs under
10 Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.