

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2652

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
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) advocate for changes in the conditions of  
19 confinement;

20 (B) offer pro bono legal services to inmates; or

21 (C) are composed of the families and friends of  
22 inmates.

23 (b) The department shall make the resource guides available  
24 in the Windham School District libraries and in each of the

1 following areas of a correctional facility:

2 (1) law libraries;

3 (2) peer educator classrooms;

4 (3) chapels;

5 (4) reintegration specialist offices; and

6 (5) any area or classroom that is used by the  
7 department for the purpose of providing information about reentry  
8 to inmates.

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

12 (d) The department, in cooperation with an organization  
13 described by Subsection (a), shall develop county-specific  
14 information packets. The department shall provide a  
15 county-specific information packet to an inmate not less than six  
16 months before the inmate will discharge the inmate's sentence or as  
17 soon as practicable before releasing the inmate on parole,  
18 mandatory 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.