By: Toth

H.B. No. 2811

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1   AN ACT

2 relating to programs provided by volunteer organizations to inmates

3 in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

5   SECTION 1. Section 501.009, Government Code, is amended to

6 read as follows:

7   Sec. 501.009. VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATIONS; REPORT. (a) The

8 department shall adopt a policy that requires each warden to

9 identify [actively encourage] volunteer and faith-based

10 organizations that [to] provide [the following] programs for

11 inmates housed in facilities operated by the department. The

12 policy must require each warden to actively encourage volunteer and

13 faith-based organizations to provide the following programs for

14 inmates in the warden's facility:

15   (1) literacy and education programs;

16   (2) life skills programs;

17   (3) job skills programs;

18   (4) parent-training programs;

19   (5) drug and alcohol rehabilitation programs;

20   (6) support group programs;

21   (7) arts and crafts programs; and

22   (8) other programs determined by the department to aid

23 inmates in the transition between confinement and society and to

24 reduce incidence of recidivism among inmates.

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1   (b)   The policy must require that each warden submit a report

2   to the board not later than December 31 of each year that includes,

3   for the preceding fiscal year, a summary of:

4   (1)   the programs provided to inmates under this

5   section; and

6   (2)   the actions taken by the warden to identify

7   volunteer and faith-based organizations willing to provide

8   programs to inmates and to encourage those organizations to provide

9   programs in the warden's facility.

10   SECTION 2.   Not later than December 1, 2013, the Texas

11   Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt the policy, including a

12   schedule for implementing the policy, required by Section 501.009,

13   Government Code, as amended by this Act.

14   SECTION 3.   This Act takes effect September 1, 2013.