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H.B. No. 428

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the solicitation of pen pals by certain inmates of the
3 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

5 SECTION 1. Chapter 500, Government Code, is amended by
6 adding Section 500.009 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 500.009. PEN PAL SOLICITATION PROHIBITED. (a) This
8 section applies only to an inmate confined in a facility operated by
9 or under contract with the department who is serving a sentence for
10 an offense for which registration as a sex offender is required
11 under Chapter 62, Code of Criminal Procedure.

12 (b) The department shall adopt a policy that prohibits an
13 inmate described by Subsection (a) from placing an advertisement
14 soliciting a pen pal on an Internet website operated for that
15 purpose, regardless of whether another person submits or pays for
16 the advertisement for the inmate.

17 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2019, the Texas
18 Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt the policy required by
19 Section 500.009, Government Code, as added by this Act.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.