

By: Reynolds, White

H.B. No. 2448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a strategic plan to reduce recidivism by facilitating stable employment for persons who are preparing to reenter communities of this state after incarceration.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.104 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.104. PLAN FOR REDUCING RECIDIVISM BY FACILITATING STABLE EMPLOYMENT. (a) Not later than December 1, 2020, the department, in collaboration with the Texas Workforce Commission and the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, shall develop a five-year strategic plan to reduce recidivism by facilitating stable employment for persons who are reentering communities of this state after incarceration. The department shall submit the plan to:

(1) the governor;

(2) the lieutenant governor;

(3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and

(4) the standing committees of the house and senate primarily responsible for criminal justice issues and corrections issues.

(b) The strategic plan must include the following information:

(1) an analysis of data regarding the relationship

1 between employment and recidivism;

2 (2) an analysis of data regarding the effect of
3 incarceration on a person's ability to pay financial obligations,
4 including fines, fees, court costs, and child support;

5 (3) an analysis of barriers to employment faced by
6 persons who are reentering communities of this state after
7 incarceration;

8 (4) recommendations on how the comprehensive reentry
9 and reintegration plan adopted under Section 501.092 should be
10 amended to support the strategic plan;

11 (5) recommendations to the legislature for statutory
12 changes that would allow the department to assist incarcerated
13 persons in obtaining credits or wages that would reduce any
14 financial obligations before and after reentry;

15 (6) an evaluation of opportunities for incarcerated
16 persons to earn credit toward occupational licenses while
17 incarcerated; and

18 (7) a design for a pilot program that would train
19 incarcerated persons, pay a private sector wage, and deposit a
20 portion of those wages in an account from which payments for
21 financial obligations may be withdrawn.

22 (c) This section expires September 1, 2021.

23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.