

House Bill 3227
Senate Amendments
Section-by-Section Analysis

HOUSE VERSION

No equivalent provision.

SENATE VERSION (CS)

CONFERENCE

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.032 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.032. AVAILABILITY OF PEER SUPPORT SERVICES. (a) The department shall adopt a policy to increase the availability of formal and informal peer support services, including certified peer specialist services, to a person confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the department, including a state jail felony facility, substance abuse felony punishment facility, or intermediate sanction facility.

(b) The policy adopted under Subsection (a) must:

(1) allow for persons who have previously been convicted of an offense, including releasees on parole or mandatory supervision and defendants on community supervision, to serve as certified peer specialists in a facility described by Subsection (a);

(2) specify the conditions under which a person described by Subdivision (1) may serve as a certified peer specialist; and

(3) allow for persons confined in a facility described by Subsection (a) to serve in a peer support role, provided that the persons are trained and supervised by a community-based organization described by Subsection (c).

(c) In implementing the policy adopted under Subsection (a), the department shall:

(1) collaborate with community-based organizations that provide peer specialist training, including training in any of the following peer support specialties:

(A) certified peer specialist;

(B) certified peer reentry specialist;

(C) certified peer recovery specialist; or

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(D) any other peer support specialty recognized by the Health and Human Services Commission; and
(2) encourage and assist persons described by Subsection (b)(3), with particular emphasis on persons who have been involved with programs or services relating to substance abuse or behavioral health, to participate in training described by Subdivision (1).

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.026 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.026. ACCESS TO PROGRAMS BY FEMALE INMATES. (a) The department shall develop and implement policies that increase and promote a female inmate's access to programs offered to inmates in the custody of the department, including educational, vocational, substance use treatment, rehabilitation, life skills training, and prerelease programs. The department may not reduce or limit a male inmate's access to a program to meet the requirements of this section.

(b) Not later than December 31 of each year, the department shall:

(1) prepare and submit to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, each standing committee of the legislature having primary jurisdiction over the department, and the reentry task force described by Section 501.098 a written report that includes:

(A) a description of any department policies that were created, modified, or eliminated during the preceding year to meet the requirements of this section; and

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(B) a list of programs available to female inmates in the custody of the department during the preceding year; and
(2) publish the report on the department's Internet website.

No equivalent provision.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall develop and implement the policies required by Section 501.026, Government Code, as added by this Act.
(See SECTION 3 below.)

SECTION 3. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall submit the first report required by Section 501.026, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 31, 2020.

SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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SECTION 3. Not later than September 1, 2020, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall adopt and implement the policy required by Section 493.032, Government Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 4. (a) As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall develop and implement the policies required by Section 501.026, Government Code, as added by this Act.

(b) The Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall submit the first report required by Section 501.026, Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than December 31, 2020.

SECTION 5. Same as House version.

CONFERENCE