

By: Reynolds

H.B. No. 53

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the reentry and reintegration programs provided by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Sections 501.092(b) and (g), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b) The reentry and reintegration plan adopted under this section must:

(1) incorporate the use of the risk and needs assessment instrument adopted under Section 501.0921;

(2) provide for programs that address the assessed needs of offenders and require the programs to begin as soon as practicable after the offender is taken into the custody of the department;

(3) provide for a comprehensive network of transition programs to address the needs of offenders released or discharged from a correctional facility, including following the completion of a period of parole or mandatory supervision;

(4) identify and define the transition services that are to be provided by the department and which offenders are eligible for those services;

(5) coordinate the provision of reentry and reintegration services provided to offenders through state-funded and volunteer programs across divisions of the department to:

1 (A) target eligible offenders efficiently; and

2 (B) ensure maximum use of existing facilities,
3 personnel, equipment, supplies, and other resources;

4 (6) provide for collecting and maintaining data
5 regarding the number of offenders who received reentry and
6 reintegration services and the number of offenders who were
7 eligible for but did not receive those services, including
8 offenders who did not participate in those services;

9 (7) provide for evaluating the effectiveness of the
10 reentry and reintegration services provided to offenders by
11 collecting, maintaining, and reporting outcome information,
12 including recidivism data as applicable;

13 (8) identify providers of existing local programs and
14 transitional services with whom the department may contract under
15 Section 495.028 to implement the reentry and reintegration plan;
16 and

17 (9) subject to Subsection (f), provide for the sharing
18 of information between local coordinators, persons with whom the
19 department contracts under Section 495.028, and other providers of
20 services as necessary to adequately assess and address the needs of
21 each offender.

22 (g) The programs provided under Subsections (b)(2) and (3)
23 must:

24 (1) be implemented by highly skilled staff who are
25 experienced in working with inmate reentry and reintegration
26 programs;

27 (2) provide offenders with:

1 (A) individualized case management and a full
2 continuum of care;

3 (B) life-skills training, including information
4 about:

- 5 (i) budgeting and [7] money management;
- 6 (ii) [7] nutrition [7] and exercise; and
- 7 (iii) the development of prosocial behavior
8 and positive relationships;

9 (C) education and, if an offender has a learning
10 disability, special education; and

11 (D) spiritual guidance, if requested by the
12 offender [~~employment training,~~

13 [~~(E) appropriate treatment programs, including~~
14 ~~substance abuse and mental health treatment programs; and~~

15 [~~(F) parenting and relationship building~~
16 ~~classes~~]; and

17 (3) be designed to build for former offenders
18 post-release and post-discharge support from the community into
19 which an offender is released or discharged, including support from
20 agencies and organizations within that community.

21 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect on the 91st day after the
22 last day of the legislative session.