

By: Garcia

H.B. No. 4982

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a veteran housing program established by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter D, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.115 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.115. VETERAN HOUSING PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish a housing program for inmates who are veterans of the United States armed forces. The program must:

(1) dedicate certain cellblocks or dormitories for use in the program; and

(2) include procedures to:

(A) verify the veteran status of each inmate during the diagnostic process; and

(B) allow an inmate whose veteran status is verified to opt in to the housing dedicated for use in the program under Subdivision (1).

(b) A cellblock or dormitory dedicated for use in the program under Subsection (a)(1) may, if necessary, be used to house inmates who are not veterans.

SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall establish the program required by Section 501.115, Government Code, as added by this Act.

1 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.