

By: Meza

H.B. No. 3723

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the access of certain individuals in correctional facilities to certain rehabilitative treatments.

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

SECTION 1. This act may be cited as the "Rehabilitation Access for Security Threat Group Members Act."

SECTION 2. FINDINGS. The Legislature finds that:

1. Security Threat Groups (STGs) are defined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) as groups or associations of inmates whose activities pose a threat to the safety and security of correctional facilities, staff, and the general public.

2. Rehabilitation programs are critical to reducing recidivism and promoting successful reintegration into society.

3. Offenders who have committed crimes related to drug or substance use should have access to rehabilitative programs that directly relate to their crime of conviction, regardless of their STG status.

4. Current policies may restrict access to specific rehabilitative programs for STG members, creating barriers to education and treatment directly related to their offense.

5. The effective rehabilitation of individuals with substance abuse issues is a key factor in reducing future criminal behavior and promoting safer communities.

SECTION 3. AMENDMENT TO TDCJ POLICIES AND PRACTICES:

(a) Mandatory Access to Rehabilitative Programs.

(1) The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) shall ensure that all inmates, including those classified as members of Security Threat Groups (STGs), have equal and unobstructed access to rehabilitative programs directly related to their crime of conviction, provided they meet all program requirements.

(b) Program Relevance to Crime of Conviction. Inmates convicted of drug or substance-related offenses shall have equal access to the following types of rehabilitative programs:

- (1) Drug and substance use prevention programs;
- (2) Drug and substance use rehabilitation programs;
- (3) Substance use education programs;
- (4) Any other programs designed to address or reduce the likelihood of future offenses related to drug and substance abuse.

(c) Non-Discriminatory Access. No individual shall be denied access to these programs solely on the basis of their STG status, and all eligible inmates shall have the opportunity to participate in relevant programs without restriction due to classification.

SECTION 4. PROGRAM EVALUATION AND REPORTING. (a) The TDCJ shall, within one year of the passage of this Act, establish an evaluation and reporting process to monitor the effectiveness of this policy. The evaluation shall include:

- (1) Data on the participation rates of STG members in rehabilitative programs related to their crime of conviction;

1 (2) The outcomes of these programs in terms of
2 substance abuse reduction while in custody;

3 (3) Any barriers to access that exist for STG members.

4 (b) The TDCJ shall submit a report to the legislature every
5 two years detailing the success of the program and any necessary
6 adjustments or recommendations for improvements.

7 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025 and
8 applies to all persons incarcerated during and after the passage of
9 this act.