

By: Huffman

S.B. No. 2839

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to training on de-escalation, crisis intervention, and behavioral health for correctional officers and certain other employees of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. This Act may be cited as the Jovian Motley Act.

SECTION 2. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.0325 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.0325. CORRECTIONAL OFFICER TRAINING ON DE-ESCALATION, CRISIS INTERVENTION, AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH.

(a) This section applies to:

(1) a correctional officer employed by the department;

(2) a department employee responsible for the direct supervision of correctional officers described by Subdivision (1);
and

(3) any other department employee whose duties involve contact with inmates.

(b) To facilitate interaction with inmates, the department shall provide employees described by Subsection (a) training on:

(1) de-escalation and crisis intervention techniques;

and

(2) behavioral health.

(c) The training described by Subsection (b)(1) must include information regarding:

- 1 (1) effective communication;
2 (2) employing alternatives to physical restraints;
3 and
4 (3) techniques for limiting the use of force resulting
5 in bodily injury.

6 (d) The training described by Subsection (b)(2) must
7 include information regarding:

- 8 (1) effective communication and intervention;
9 (2) increased awareness of persons with behavioral
10 health concerns, substance use disorders, or intellectual and
11 developmental disabilities;
12 (3) crisis recognition, prevention, and response;
13 (4) suicide risk and prevention; and
14 (5) access to employee assistance programs available
15 to correctional officers.

16 (e) The training required by this section must be included
17 in the department's preservice training for correctional officers
18 and completed annually by employees described by Subsection (a).

19 SECTION 3. As soon as practicable after the effective date
20 of this Act but not later than December 1, 2025, the Texas
21 Department of Criminal Justice shall make the training required by
22 Section 493.0325, Government Code, as added by this Act, available
23 to the employees described by Subsection (a) of that section.

24 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.