

1-1 By: Hinojosa, Rodríguez S.B. No. 578
 1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 13, 2015; February 23, 2015,
 1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
 1-4 March 25, 2015, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 5,
 1-5 Nays 0; March 25, 2015, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	X			
1-9			X	
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12			X	
1-13	X			
1-14	X			

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
 1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to providing inmates of the Texas Department of Criminal
 1-18 Justice with information regarding reentry and reintegration
 1-19 resources.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 501, Government Code, is
 1-22 amended by adding Section 501.0971 to read as follows:

1-23 Sec. 501.0971. PROVISION OF REENTRY AND REINTEGRATION

1-24 INFORMATION TO INMATES. (a) The department shall identify
 1-25 organizations that provide reentry and reintegration resource
 1-26 guides and shall collaborate with those organizations to make the
 1-27 resource guides available to all inmates. At a minimum, the
 1-28 department shall collaborate with:

1-29 (1) nonprofit entities that specialize in criminal
 1-30 justice issues;

1-31 (2) faith-based organizations; and

1-32 (3) organizations that:

1-33 (A) offer pro bono legal services to inmates; or

1-34 (B) are composed of the families and friends of
 1-35 inmates.

1-36 (b) The department shall make the resource guides available
 1-37 in the Windham School District libraries and in each of the
 1-38 following areas of a correctional facility:

1-39 (1) law libraries;

1-40 (2) peer educator classrooms;

1-41 (3) chapels;

1-42 (4) reintegration specialist offices; and

1-43 (5) any area or classroom that is used by the
 1-44 department for the purpose of providing information about reentry
 1-45 to inmates.

1-46 (c) The department shall make available a sufficient number
 1-47 of copies of the resource guides to ensure that each inmate is able
 1-48 to access a resource guide in a timely manner.

1-49 (d) The department shall identify organizations described
 1-50 by Subsection (a) that provide information described by Subsection
 1-51 (e) and shall collaborate with those organizations to compile
 1-52 county-specific information packets for inmates. The department
 1-53 shall:

1-54 (1) within the 180-day period preceding the date an
 1-55 inmate is released on parole, mandatory supervision, or conditional
 1-56 pardon, provide the inmate with a county-specific information
 1-57 packet for the county that the inmate designates as the inmate's
 1-58 intended residence; and

1-59 (2) within the 180-day period preceding the date an
 1-60 inmate will discharge the inmate's sentence, provide the inmate
 1-61 with a county-specific information packet for Bexar, Dallas, El

2-1 Paso, Harris, Nueces, Tarrant, and Travis Counties and any other
2-2 county that the inmate may designate as the inmate's intended
2-3 residence.

2-4 (e) At the minimum, a county-specific packet described by
2-5 Subsection (d) must include, for the applicable county:

2-6 (1) contact information, including telephone numbers,
2-7 e-mail addresses, physical locations, and mailing addresses, as
2-8 applicable, of:

2-9 (A) workforce offices, housing options, places
2-10 of worship, support groups, peer-to-peer counseling groups, and
2-11 other relevant organizations or agencies as determined by the
2-12 department and the collaborating organization;

2-13 (B) agencies and organizations that offer
2-14 emergency assistance, such as food and clothing banks, temporary
2-15 bus passes, low-cost medical assistance, and overnight and
2-16 temporary housing; and

2-17 (C) agencies and organizations that offer mental
2-18 health counseling; and

2-19 (2) information necessary for the inmate to apply for
2-20 governmental assistance or benefits, including Medicaid, social
2-21 security benefits, or nutritional assistance programs under
2-22 Chapter 33, Human Resources Code.

2-23 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.

2-24 * * * * *