

1 AN ACT

2 relating to a policy regarding the receipt of books by mail by an  
3 inmate in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

5 SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is  
6 amended by adding Section 501.0051 to read as follows:

7 Sec. 501.0051. RECEIPT OF BOOKS BY MAIL. (a) The  
8 department shall establish a policy that permits an inmate to  
9 receive by mail reference books and other educational materials  
10 from a volunteer organization that operates programs described by  
11 Section 501.009, regardless of whether the organization provides  
12 those programs to inmates housed in facilities operated by the  
13 department.

14 (b) The department may adopt rules as necessary to implement  
15 this section, including rules to:

16 (1) provide for screening of packages sent to inmates;  
17 (2) prohibit inmates from receiving books that might  
18 assist them in committing crimes, such as books on escaping prison;  
19 and

20 (3) define the terms "reference books" and  
21 "educational materials."

22 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
23 of this Act, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall  
24 establish the policy required by Section 501.0051, Government Code,

1 as added by this Act.

2           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
3 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
4 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
5 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
6 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.

David Newkum

President of the Senate

Jim Strawn

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3649 was passed by the House on May 6, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 125, Nays 19, 1 present, not voting.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3649 was passed by the Senate on May 26, 2009, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Datsy Saw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 19 JUN '09

Date

RICK PERRY

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
2PM O'CLOCK

JUN 19 2009

Colby Shuter III