

By: Farias

H.B. No. 3726

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to establishing a veterans reentry program for certain inmates and state jail defendants confined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.0961 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.0961. VETERANS REENTRY DORM PROGRAM. (a) The department shall establish a voluntary reentry and reintegration program for offenders:

(1) who are veterans of the United States armed forces, including veterans of the reserves, national guard, or state guard; and

(2) who suffer from a brain injury, mental illness, or mental disorder, including post-traumatic stress disorder, that:

(A) occurred during or resulted from their military service; and

(B) may have contributed to their criminal activity.

(b) The program must:

(1) house offenders participating in the program in housing that is designed to mimic the squadron structure familiar to veterans;

(2) provide rehabilitation programming in developing

1 healthy relationships, anger management techniques, and substance
2 abuse treatment; and

3 (3) before releasing or discharging an offender
4 participating in the program from the department, match the
5 offender with a veteran peer coordinator to assist the offender in
6 reintegrating into the community.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2015.