

Existing law requires the secretary of DPS&C to adopt rules and regulations for local jail facilities and state correctional institutions to encourage voluntary participation by inmates in certified treatment and rehabilitation programs, including but not limited to basic education, job skills training, values development, faith-based initiatives, therapeutic programs, and treatment programs.

Existing law further provides that when funds are provided, such educational programs shall be available at each penal or correctional institution under the jurisdiction of the department. The rules and regulations may include provisions for furloughs or the awarding of good time for offenders who are otherwise eligible. Offenders may be awarded up to 90 days good time for satisfactory participation in each approved program, but no offender shall receive more than 250 days total good time for program participation.

Prior law prohibited certain habitual offenders from earning good time diminution of sentence.

New law allows a habitual offender, in the custody of DPS&C, who was not convicted of a sex offense or a crime of violence to earn additional good time for participation in certified treatment and rehabilitation programs.

Effective August 1, 2012.

(Amends R.S. 15:828(C); Adds R.S. 15:571.3(E))