

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.B. No. 1638

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to requiring security cameras in common areas of facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 501.028 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.028. SECURITY CAMERAS REQUIRED IN COMMON AREAS.

(a) The department shall install and maintain security cameras in each common area of a facility operated by the department. This subsection does not apply to any area of a facility where an inmate has a reasonable expectation of privacy, including an inmate's cell or a restroom or shower.

(b) Security cameras required by Subsection (a) must be:

(1) capable of capturing and transmitting high quality video; and

(2) positioned in a manner to eliminate blind spots in the common areas.

SECTION 2. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice is not required to comply with the requirements of Section 501.028, Government Code, as added by this Act, until September 1, 2023.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.