

By: West, et al.

S.B. No. 1146

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the medical transportation and care for certain inmates in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 501, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 501.0515 and 501.071 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.0515. PROCEDURES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF FEMALE INMATES FOR MEDICAL CARE. The department shall establish procedures to be used during the regularly scheduled transportation of female inmates for nonemergency medical care to The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston or another medical facility that provides medical services for inmates. The procedures must ensure that:

(1) any searches conducted are performed in an area and manner that conforms with the requirements of the Prison Rape Elimination Act of 2003 (34 U.S.C. Section 30301 et seq.) and any regulation adopted under that Act;

(2) buses used to transport female inmates are equipped with bathrooms and have an adequate supply of toilet paper and feminine hygiene products as defined by Section 501.0675 for the inmates being transported;

(3) female inmates receive sufficient food and nutrition in accordance with medical or nutritional standards as determined by the department; and

1 (4) facilities used to house female inmates overnight
2 while being transported have an adequate number of beds for the
3 inmates being transported.

4 Sec. 501.071. ACCESS TO TELEMEDICINE AND TELEHEALTH
5 SERVICES AND ON-SITE MEDICAL CARE. The department, in conjunction
6 with The University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston and the
7 Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, shall establish
8 procedures to increase opportunities and expand access to
9 telemedicine medical services and telehealth services, as those
10 terms are defined by Section 111.001, Occupations Code, and on-site
11 medical care for inmates, including on-site mobile care units that
12 provide diagnostic imaging, physical therapy, and other
13 appropriate mobile health services.

14 SECTION 2. Not later than December 1, 2023, the Texas
15 Department of Criminal Justice shall establish the procedures
16 required by Sections 501.0515 and 501.071, Government Code, as
17 added by this Act.

18 SECTION 3. Not later than December 1, 2024, the Texas
19 Department of Criminal Justice shall submit a report to the
20 legislature on the department's progress in increasing
21 opportunities and expanding access to telemedicine medical
22 services and telehealth services and on-site medical care for
23 inmates under Section 501.071, Government Code, as added by this
24 Act, including a summary of the procedures established under that
25 section and the number of inmates who received services or care
26 under those procedures.

27 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.