

By: Lowe

H.B. No. 5450

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of an advisory committee on preventable deaths in county jails and a report concerning county jail safety.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 511, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 511.0082 to read as follows:

Sec. 511.0082. ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PREVENTABLE DEATHS.

(a) The commission shall establish an advisory committee to make recommendations on the reduction of preventable deaths in county jails. The commission shall appoint not more than 11 members to the advisory committee. The advisory committee must include:

(1) one member who is a family member of a person who died in a county jail in this state;

(2) one member with expertise in jail conditions, jail standards, and deaths in custody who does not have any association with law enforcement or an agency of this state;

(3) one criminal defense attorney;

(4) one medical examiner;

(5) two members who represent the public; and

(6) any other member whom the commission determines to be appropriate.

(b) The advisory committee described by Subsection (a) shall:

1 (1) meet monthly;

2 (2) collect and review reports of deaths in custody
3 after an investigation of the death has concluded, including
4 reviewing any evidence as determined necessary by the advisory
5 committee;

6 (3) identify deaths in custody that could have been
7 prevented; and

8 (4) make recommendations to the commission regarding
9 rules, policies, and training needed to reduce preventable deaths
10 in county jails.

11 (c) Chapter 2110 does not apply to the size, composition, or
12 duration of the advisory committee described by Subsection (a).

13 SECTION 2. Chapter 511, Government Code, is amended by
14 adding Section 511.00904 to read as follows:

15 Sec. 511.00904. ANNUAL REPORT ON EMERGING ISSUES IN JAIL
16 SAFETY, SECURITY, AND COMPLIANCE. The commission shall annually
17 prepare and publish on the commission's Internet website a report
18 summarizing emerging issues in county jail safety, security, and
19 compliance, including data and recommendations to reduce
20 preventable deaths. The report must include the following
21 information:

22 (1) a summary of each death that occurred in a county
23 jail, including a detailed description of each death identified as
24 preventable by the advisory committee established under Section
25 511.0082 and any responses by county officials regarding the death;

26 (2) a statistical report on deaths that occurred in a
27 county jail in the reporting year compared against the preceding

five years, disaggregated by:

(A) cause of death;

(B) county in which the death occurred;

(C) race, ethnicity, sex, and age of the inmate who died;

(D) whether the inmate who died was identified for health, mental health, or intellectual disability disorder consideration;

(E) whether the death was a preventable death;

(F) whether the jail was issued a notice of noncompliance or provided with technical assistance; and

(G) whether force was used on the inmate before the inmate's death;

(3) the number and nature of complaints made regarding county jails, including complaints regarding a violation of any required ratio of correctional officers to inmates;

(4) recommendations made by the advisory committee established under Section 511.0082;

(5) turnover and vacancy rates for county jail staff, including medical staff, disaggregated by jail and medical bed count at the jail;

(6) a list of county jails in noncompliance and the nature of the noncompliance related to commission rules, requirements, and standards, including the requirements of Article 16.22, Code of Criminal Procedure; and

(7) a list of county jails that have been granted a variance from commission rules and a description of the variances.

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1 SECTION 3. Not later than October 1, 2025, the Commission on
2 Jail Standards shall appoint the members of the advisory committee
3 on preventable deaths as required by Section 511.0082, Government
4 Code, as added by this Act.

5 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.