

By: Flores

H.B. No. 1660

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a report to the legislature regarding the installation and operation of video camera surveillance systems in county jails.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 351, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 351.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.016. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE ON VIDEO CAMERA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS. (a) Not later than December 1, 2004, the Commission on Jail Standards shall submit to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature and to the presiding officer of the standing committee of the house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over county affairs a report that describes:

(1) the feasibility of installing and operating in county jails video camera surveillance systems that record video images in each jail corridor, solitary confinement cell, suicide watch cell, kitchen, and dining area or other common area;

(2) the probability and nature of changes in technology affecting the installation and operation of systems described by Subdivision (1);

(3) potential sources of revenue available to counties to pay for video camera surveillance systems, including jail commissary proceeds and possible increases in court costs;

(4) areas in county jails not described by Subdivision (1) that nonetheless should be monitored by surveillance systems;

1 and

2 (5) the feasibility of implementing and using other
3 cost-effective means to address the issues presenting an apparent
4 need for video camera surveillance systems, such as:

5 (A) a system ensuring that medical records
6 accompany inmates at each stage of incarceration;

7 (B) a system of separating inmates according to
8 offense seriousness;

9 (C) a program to identify inmates with illnesses
10 or with suicidal tendencies; and

11 (D) a program to provide individual counseling to
12 inmates on their admission to jail.

13 (b) This section expires December 2, 2004.

14 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.