

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) The Commission on Jail Standards shall include in the
14 report submitted under Subsection (a) information stating by
15 county:

16 (1) the number of suicides committed by inmates
17 confined in the county jail;

18 (2) the number of assaults committed against inmates
19 confined in the county jail;

20 (3) the number of assaults committed by inmates
21 confined in the county jail against the sheriff or an officer or
22 employee of the county jail;

23 (4) the number of lawsuits filed against the county as
24 a result of suicides and assaults;

25 (5) the costs incurred by the county in defending
26 those lawsuits; and

27 (6) the judgments awarded against the county in those

1 lawsuits.

2 (c) This section expires December 2, 2004.

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

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1660 was passed by the House on May 16, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1660 on May 30, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1660 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor