

By: Madden

H.B. No. 2197

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the availability to the public of photographs of an inmate confined by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Section 552.029, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 552.029. RIGHT OF ACCESS TO CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO INMATE OF DEPARTMENT OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE. Notwithstanding Section 508.313 or 552.134, the following information about an inmate who is confined in a facility operated by or under a contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is subject to required disclosure under Section 552.021:

(1) the inmate's name, identification number, age, birthplace, department photograph, physical description, or general state of health or the nature of an injury to or critical illness suffered by the inmate;

(2) the inmate's assigned unit or the date on which the unit received the inmate, unless disclosure of the information would violate federal law relating to the confidentiality of substance abuse treatment;

(3) the offense for which the inmate was convicted or the judgment and sentence for that offense;

(4) the county and court in which the inmate was

1 convicted;

2 (5) the inmate's earliest or latest possible release  
3 dates;

4 (6) the inmate's parole date or earliest possible  
5 parole date;

6 (7) any prior confinement of the inmate by the Texas  
7 Department of Criminal Justice or its predecessor; or

8 (8) basic information regarding the death of an inmate  
9 in custody, an incident involving the use of force, or an alleged  
10 crime involving the inmate.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
12 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
13 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
14 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
15 Act takes effect September 1, 2005.