

By: Raymond

H.B. No. 168

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the efficient use by the Texas Department of Criminal
3 Justice of county jail beds provided by contract between the
4 department and counties.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 499, Government Code, is
7 amended by adding Section 499.029 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 499.029. INVENTORY OF AVAILABLE COUNTY JAIL BEDS;
9 SUITABILITY OF INMATES FOR TRANSFER. (a) The department shall
10 develop a policy that provides the department with a method for
11 projecting for each calendar year the number of county jail beds, to
12 be provided by contracts between the department and commissioners
13 courts, that are available to the department for the confinement of
14 inmates in the custody of the department.

15 (b) The department shall develop a policy to determine which
16 inmates in the custody of the department are the best candidates for
17 confinement in county jail beds provided by contracts between the
18 department and commissioners courts. In developing the policy, the
19 department shall consider criminal history, physical and mental
20 health history, and the conduct of inmates while confined.

21 (c) To the greatest extent possible, the department shall
22 diminish the effect of overcrowding in the department by confining
23 inmates in county jail beds provided by contract between the
24 department and commissioners courts, placing in those beds those

1 inmates who are suitable for confinement in those facilities and do
2 not by virtue of their placement constitute a threat to public
3 safety.

4 (d) The Commission on Jail Standards shall assist the
5 department as necessary for the development of policies under this
6 section.

7 SECTION 2. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall
8 develop policies required by Section 499.029, Government Code, as
9 added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2008.

10 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
11 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
12 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
13 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
14 Act takes effect September 1, 2007.