

By: McClendon

H.B. No. 898

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

2 relating to the creation of the Criminal Justice Legislative
3 Oversight Committee.

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

5 SECTION 1. The heading to Subtitle C, Title 3, Government
6 Code, is amended to read as follows:

7 SUBTITLE C. LEGISLATIVE AGENCIES AND OVERSIGHT COMMITTEES

8 SECTION 2. Subtitle C, Title 3, Government Code, is amended
9 by adding Chapter 328 to read as follows:

10 CHAPTER 328. CRIMINAL JUSTICE LEGISLATIVE OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

11 Sec. 328.001. DEFINITION. In this chapter, "committee"
12 means the Criminal Justice Legislative Oversight Committee.

13 Sec. 328.002. ESTABLISHMENT; COMPOSITION. (a) The Criminal
14 Justice Legislative Oversight Committee is established to provide
15 objective research, analysis, and recommendations to help guide
16 state criminal justice policies.

17 (b) The committee is composed of six members as follows:

18 (1) the chair of the Senate Committee on Criminal
19 Justice;

20 (2) the chair of the House Committee on Corrections;

21 (3) two members of the senate appointed by the
22 lieutenant governor; and

23 (4) two members of the house of representatives
24 appointed by the speaker of the house of representatives.

1 (c) In making appointments under Subsection (b)(3) or (4),
2 the lieutenant governor or the speaker of the house of
3 representatives, as applicable, shall give first consideration to
4 members of the senate or the house of representatives who are
5 members of the Senate Finance Committee or the House Appropriations
6 Committee.

7 (d) An appointed member of the committee serves at the
8 pleasure of the appointing official.

9 Sec. 328.003. PRESIDING OFFICER; TERM. (a) The lieutenant
10 governor and the speaker of the house of representatives shall
11 appoint the presiding officer of the committee on an alternating
12 basis.

13 (b) The presiding officer of the committee serves a two-year
14 term that expires February 1 of each odd-numbered year.

15 Sec. 328.004. POWERS AND DUTIES. (a) The committee shall:

16 (1) use statistical analyses and other research
17 methods to conduct an in-depth examination of the criminal justice
18 system in this state that includes:

19 (A) an assessment of the cost-effectiveness of
20 the use of state and local funds in the criminal justice system;

21 (B) an identification of critical problems in the
22 criminal justice system; and

23 (C) a determination of the long-range needs of
24 the criminal justice system;

25 (2) recommend to the legislature:

26 (A) strategies to solve the problems identified
27 under Subdivision (1)(B); and

1 (B) policy priorities to address the long-range
2 needs determined under Subdivision (1)(B); and

3 (3) advise and assist the legislature in developing
4 plans, programs, and proposed legislation to improve the
5 effectiveness of the criminal justice system.

6 (b) The committee has all other powers and duties provided
7 to a special committee by:

8 (1) Subchapter B, Chapter 301;

9 (2) the rules of the senate and the house of
10 representatives; and

11 (3) policies of the senate and house committees on
12 administration.

13 Sec. 328.005. MEETINGS. The committee shall meet at the
14 call of the presiding officer.

15 Sec. 328.006. SUPPORT STAFF; AUTHORITY TO CONTRACT. The
16 committee may hire support staff or may contract with universities
17 or other suitable entities to assist the committee in carrying out
18 the committee's duties.

19 Sec. 328.007. REPORT. Not later than January 1 of each
20 odd-numbered year, the committee shall submit to the legislature a
21 report that contains the recommendations described by Section
22 328.004(a)(2).

23 SECTION 3. (a) The speaker of the house of representatives
24 and the lieutenant governor shall appoint members to the Criminal
25 Justice Legislative Oversight Committee under Chapter 328,
26 Government Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1,
27 2008.

1 (b) Notwithstanding Section 328.003, Government Code, as
2 added by this Act, the speaker of the house of representatives, not
3 later than January 15, 2008, shall appoint a presiding officer for
4 the committee. The presiding officer appointed by the speaker of
5 the house of representatives under this section serves a one-year
6 term that begins on February 1, 2008, and ends on February 1, 2009.

7 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2007.