

By: Thompson

H.B. No. 789

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a criminal justice policy impact statement attached to certain bills or resolutions.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 314, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 314.005 to read as follows:

Sec. 314.005. CRIMINAL JUSTICE POLICY IMPACT STATEMENT.

(a) The board shall prepare a criminal justice policy impact statement for each bill or resolution that authorizes or requires a change in the sanctions applicable to adults convicted of a felony.

(b) The impact statement must include information concerning:

(1) the estimated number of criminal cases each year that the legislation will impact;

(2) the fiscal impact of imprisoning or imposing other sanctions on persons in accordance with the legislation;

(3) the impact of the legislation on major racial and ethnic minority groups;

(4) the impact of the legislation on existing correctional facilities, as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code;

(5) the likelihood that the legislation may create a need for additional prison capacity; and

(6) any other matter the board determines relevant.

(c) The board shall consult with the Department of Public

1 Safety and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to develop a
2 protocol for analyzing the impact of the bill or resolution on
3 racial and ethnic minority groups.

4 (d) The impact statement must be attached to the bill or
5 resolution immediately following the fiscal note attached under
6 Section 314.003.

7 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
8 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
9 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
10 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
11 Act takes effect September 1, 2009.