

By: Madden

H.B. No. 2818

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the use of videoconferencing in certain proceedings
3 involving inmates confined in a facility operated by or under
4 contract with the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

6 SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by
7 adding Section 493.031 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 493.031. USE OF VIDEOCONFERENCING. (a) The
9 department shall establish a procedure that, to the extent
10 authorized by the laws of this state:

11 (1) minimizes the transportation of inmates to and
12 from legal proceedings at which an inmate is required to appear; and

13 (2) maximizes the use of videoconferencing technology
14 in legal proceedings at which an inmate is required to appear.

15 (b) The procedure adopted by the department under
16 Subsection (a) may not deny an inmate a right to which the inmate is
17 entitled under the constitution of this state or the United States.

18 SECTION 2. The Texas Department of Criminal Justice shall
19 establish the procedure required under Section 493.031, Government
20 Code, as added by this Act, not later than January 1, 2010.

21 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2009.