

BILL ANALYSIS

S.B. 1687
By: Ellis
County Affairs
Committee Report (Unamended)

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

Currently, county jails submit some information on a yearly basis to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCJS) in order for TCJS to provide oversight and guidance on jail operations and conditions. Jails also provide other information on a monthly basis to give TCJS a sense of current jail operations, including information on the number and type of prisoners and the jail's capacity. These monthly reports allow TCJS to identify developing issues before they become more serious and result in accidents, litigation, or incidents of violence.

However, current law does not require jails to report information on jailer turnover, a key indicator of developing operations problems. Turnover rates can vary wildly, from a standard rate in the single digits to 40 percent in some jails. Such high rates of turnover can indicate an inexperienced jail staff and possible serious operational problems. Giving TCJS access to this information would give TCJS another window into jail operations and improve its oversight role, with negligible burden to jails.

S.B. 1687 amends current law relating to information on turnover among licensed jailers at jails under the jurisdiction of the Commission on Jail Standards.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

Rulemaking authority is expressly granted to the Texas Commission on Jail Standards in SECTION 2 of this bill.

ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Chapter 511, Government Code, by adding Section 511.0102, as follows:

Sec. 511.0102. INFORMATION ON LICENSED JAILER TURNOVER. Requires each jail under the Texas Commission on Jail Standards' (TCJS) jurisdiction to submit to TCJS, on or before the fifth day of the month, a report containing the number of licensed jailers who left employment at the jail during the previous month. Requires TCJS to prescribe a form for the report required by this section.

SECTION 2. Requires TCJS, not later than December 1, 2011, to adopt rules to implement Section 511.0102, Government Code, as added by this Act.

EFFECTIVE DATE

Effective date: September 1, 2011.