

By: Turner of Harris

H.B. No. 2398

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study of and report regarding Texas Department of  
Criminal Justice visitation policies.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 501, Government Code, is  
amended by adding Section 501.0101 to read as follows:

Sec. 501.0101. STUDY OF VISITATION POLICIES; REPORT. (a)  
The department shall conduct a study of the state jail division's  
visitation policies under Section 507.030(b) and the institutional  
division's visitation policies under Section 501.010(b). The study  
must include methods to improve the policies to provide:

(1) safe contact between adults;

(2) child-friendly areas;

(3) an atmosphere that is conducive to maintaining  
family relations; and

(4) updated visitation facilities that reduce noise  
and allow for adequate space.

(b) Not later than December 31, 2014, the department shall  
report the results of the study to the governor, the lieutenant  
governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and the  
standing legislative committees with primary jurisdiction over the  
department.

(c) This section expires February 1, 2015.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives

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1 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
2 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
3 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
4 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.