

By: Larson

H.B. No. 161

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to housing prisoners in a tent or other facility in lieu of a county jail.

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

SECTION 1. The heading to Section 351.0035, Local Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 351.0035. ~~[TEMPORARY]~~ HOUSING PRISONERS IN TENTS OR OTHER FACILITIES IN LIEU OF COUNTY JAIL.

SECTION 2. Sections 351.0035(a) and (b), Local Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a) A ~~[On request of the sheriff and the commissioners court of a county, the Commission on Jail Standards shall authorize a]~~ county may ~~[to]~~ house a prisoner in a tent or other facility that is not a county jail for the duration of the prisoner's sentence.

(b) The Commission on Jail Standards shall adopt rules that govern the ~~[temporary]~~ housing of prisoners in a tent or other facility that is not a county jail, including a specific requirement for:

- (1) the classification and separation of prisoners;
- (2) the supervision of prisoners;
- (3) safety, sanitation, and health;
- (4) the structure and maintenance of the facility;
- (5) the provision of bunks or sleeping areas for prisoners or other furnishings for the facility;

1 (6) the space and capacity in the facility; and
2 (7) the enforcement of a rule the commission adopts
3 under this subsection.

4 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.