

By: Farias

H.B. No. 1507

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to a report to the Texas Juvenile Justice Department  
3 concerning restorative justice programs for juvenile offenders in  
4 certain counties.

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

6 SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

7 (1) "Department" means the Texas Juvenile Justice  
8 Department.

9 (2) "Local department" means a local juvenile  
10 probation department.

11 (3) "Program" means a restorative justice program  
12 created for juvenile offenders.

13 (4) "Restorative justice" means an approach to justice  
14 that emphasizes the importance of an offender's reparation of harm  
15 caused to a victim by the offender's conduct that violates a penal  
16 law. The term includes victim-offender mediation.

17 SECTION 2. APPLICABILITY. This Act applies only to a local  
18 department located in a county:

19 (1) with a population of more than 1.5 million; and

20 (2) in which more than 75 percent of the population  
21 resides in a single municipality.

22 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2016, a local  
23 department shall submit a report to the department regarding the  
24 program. The report must include:

- 1           (1) a comprehensive analysis of the effectiveness of  
2 the program;
- 3           (2) the local department's findings and  
4 recommendations regarding continuation or expansion of the  
5 program;
- 6           (3) whether the local department developed an action  
7 plan and if the action plan was followed;
- 8           (4) the extent to which restorative justice is offered  
9 by the local department, including the specific programs used in  
10 restorative justice cases;
- 11          (5) what methods are used to track data, including  
12 compliance with data privacy laws;
- 13          (6) the number of offenders, victims, and community  
14 members participating in the program;
- 15          (7) information regarding the types of offenses,  
16 demographics, and relationships between the victims and offenders;
- 17          (8) whether monthly audits are conducted and the  
18 results of the audits;
- 19          (9) whether the program is equipped to expand;
- 20          (10) identification of potential program barriers;
- 21          (11) information regarding the criminal history of  
22 offenders;
- 23          (12) information regarding the background,  
24 experience, and eligibility of mediators;
- 25          (13) whether the program was offered pre-adjudication  
26 or post-adjudication;
- 27          (14) victim and offender satisfaction rates regarding

1 the program;

2 (15) the overall rate of restitution as a result of the  
3 program; and

4 (16) the outcome measures used to determine the  
5 effectiveness of the program.

6 SECTION 4. EXPIRATION. This Act expires September 2, 2017.

7 SECTION 5. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
8 1, 2015.