

By: Hernandez, White

H.B. No. 239

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a report regarding the confinement of pregnant inmates by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "department" means the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(b) The department shall prepare a report on the confinement of pregnant inmates in facilities operated by or under contract with the department. The report must include:

(1) a description of the department's implementation of policies and procedures to provide adequate care to pregnant inmates while confined in a facility operated by or under contract with the department, and any policies adopted by the department regarding the placement of a pregnant inmate in administrative segregation;

(2) information regarding the health care provided to a pregnant inmate, including the availability of:

(A) obstetrical or gynecological care;

(B) prenatal health care visits;

(C) mental health care; and

(D) drug abuse or chemical dependency treatment;

(3) a detailed summary of the following as applicable to pregnant inmates:

(A) nutritional standards, including the average

1 caloric intake of a pregnant inmate and other dietary information;

2 (B) work assignments;

3 (C) housing conditions; and

4 (D) situations in which a pregnant inmate has  
5 been restrained, including the reason a determination to use  
6 restraints was made under Section 501.066, Government Code; and

7 (4) the number of miscarriages experienced by pregnant  
8 inmates while confined in a facility operated by or under contract  
9 with the department between September 1, 2017, and September 1,  
10 2018.

11 (c) Not later than December 1, 2018, the department shall  
12 provide a copy of the report to:

13 (1) the governor;

14 (2) the lieutenant governor;

15 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and

16 (4) each standing committee of the senate and house of  
17 representatives having primary jurisdiction over matters relating  
18 to corrections.

19 SECTION 2. This Act expires February 1, 2019.

20 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.