

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 1041

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the review of certain privately operated residential facilities for persons released on parole or to mandatory supervision.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(2) "Releasee" means a person released on parole or to mandatory supervision.

SECTION 2. REVIEW OF RESIDENTIAL FACILITIES. (a) The department shall review instances in which a releasee has absconded from supervision while being housed in a facility that is:

(1) operated under contract with the department; and

(2) located in a county that has a population of 800,000 or more and is located on the international border.

(b) The department shall analyze the factors that contribute to releasees absconding, including to what extent a rate of absconsion from a particular facility that exceeds the statewide average for all facilities is attributable to the types of releasees residing in the facility or to issues related to the staff of the facility.

(c) The department shall make recommendations regarding:

(1) improvements to the procedures used by the

1 department to:

2 (A) assess whether a releasee is likely to  
3 abscond from supervision; and

4 (B) identify the appropriate residence for a  
5 releasee; and

6 (2) legislative changes to the department's  
7 contracting powers, including any provisions to:

8 (A) determine the most suitable private vendors  
9 with which to contract for the housing, supervision, and  
10 programmatic support of releasees; and

11 (B) establish minimum requirements for the  
12 staffing of any facility housing releasees under a contract with  
13 the department.

14 SECTION 3. REPORT. Not later than December 1, 2018, the  
15 department shall report the results of the review and analysis  
16 required by Section 2 of this Act and make recommendations to the  
17 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
18 representatives, and the standing legislative committees with  
19 primary jurisdiction over the department.

20 SECTION 4. ASSISTANCE BY BOARD OF PARDONS AND PAROLES. On  
21 request of the department, the Board of Pardons and Paroles shall  
22 provide information to the department or otherwise assist the  
23 department in conducting the review and preparing the report  
24 required by this Act.

25 SECTION 5. EXPIRATION. This Act expires June 1, 2019.

26 SECTION 6. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect September  
27 1, 2017.