

By: Davis of Harris, White

H.B. No. 788

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study on the assessments used by the Board of Pardons and Paroles to make parole decisions.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 508, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 508.1446 to read as follows:

Sec. 508.1446. STUDY ON ASSESSMENTS USED DURING PAROLE DECISIONS. (a) The board shall conduct a study on the effectiveness of the assessment components of the parole guidelines adopted under Section 508.144 and used by the board and parole panels in determining which inmates should be released on parole.

(b) In conducting the study, the board:

(1) shall obtain information on inmates considered and released on parole during the period beginning September 1, 2013, and ending August 31, 2016, from the Texas Board of Criminal Justice, the department, and any other criminal justice agency with relevant information on the recidivism of those inmates; and

(2) may use information for a select group of inmates based on an acceptable research methodology.

(c) In evaluating the effectiveness of the assessments, the board shall compare and analyze the recidivism rates and parole guideline score of the inmates used in the study. The board shall determine for each category or score within the parole guidelines:

(1) the number of inmates released on parole who are

1 convicted of a misdemeanor offense following release on parole;

2 (2) the number of inmates released on parole who are  
3 convicted of a felony offense following release on parole; and

4 (3) the number of inmates released on parole who have  
5 had parole revoked for a reason other than a new conviction.

6 (d) Not later than January 1, 2021, the board shall submit a  
7 report on the results of the study to the governor, the lieutenant  
8 governor, and each member of the legislature. The report must  
9 include any recommendations the board considers necessary to  
10 improve the parole decision-making process, including any updates  
11 to the parole guidelines or modifications to the range of  
12 recommended parole approval rates as described by Section  
13 [508.144\(c\)](#).

14 (e) This section expires August 31, 2021.

15 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
16 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
17 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
18 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
19 Act takes effect September 1, 2019.