

By: Dutton

H.B. No. 1956

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to certain contract and notice requirements applicable to
3 certain facilities used to house inmates or releasees from the
4 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 493.010, Government Code, is amended to
7 read as follows:

8 Sec. 493.010. CONTRACTS FOR MISCELLANEOUS HOUSING. (a) The
9 board, for the temporary or permanent housing of inmates, may enter
10 into leases or contract with:

11 (1) public or private jails; or

12 (2) operators of alternative housing facilities.

13 (b) The board may not enter into a lease or contract with an
14 operator of a private jail or alternative housing facility under
15 Subsection (a) unless the operator submits to the board a permit or
16 other documentation showing that the jail or facility is in
17 compliance with all applicable municipal and county regulations.

18 SECTION 2. Subchapter E, Chapter 508, Government Code, is
19 amended by adding Sections 508.158 and 508.159 to read as follows:

20 Sec. 508.158. ALTERNATIVE HOUSING PROGRAM. The department
21 shall require that an applicant to participate as a provider in a
22 program designed to provide alternative housing for two or more
23 unrelated releasees submit with the application, in the manner
24 specified by the department, a permit or other documentation

1 showing that the proposed alternative housing facility is in
2 compliance with all applicable municipal and county regulations.

3 Sec. 508.159. INFORMATION REGARDING ALTERNATIVE HOUSING;
4 NOTICE TO POLITICAL SUBDIVISION. (a) The department shall
5 maintain the following information regarding releasees:

6 (1) a list of facilities providing alternative housing
7 to two or more unrelated releasees, including:

8 (A) the name, address, and telephone number of
9 the facility;

10 (B) the county in which the facility is located;

11 (C) information regarding whether the facility
12 is in compliance with all applicable municipal and county
13 regulations;

14 (D) the number of releasees residing at the
15 facility; and

16 (E) the maximum capacity of the facility; and

17 (2) a list of releasees being housed at a facility
18 described by Subdivision (1), including:

19 (A) the releasee's name;

20 (B) the county in which the releasee is required
21 to reside under Section 508.181;

22 (C) the county in which the releasee committed
23 the offense for which the releasee is on parole or mandatory
24 supervision;

25 (D) the alternative housing facility in which the
26 releasee resides; and

27 (E) the date on which the releasee began residing

1 at the facility.

2 (b) On request of a county or municipality, the department
3 shall provide monthly the information maintained by the department
4 under Subsection (a). A county or municipality shall notify the
5 department if the county or municipality does not want to continue
6 to receive the information.

7 (c) The department shall provide the information to a county
8 or municipality under Subsection (b) by secured electronic mail and
9 in a machine-readable format.

10 (d) On request by a member of the legislature, the
11 department shall provide the information maintained by the
12 department under Subsection (a) to the member.

13 SECTION 3. (a) Section 493.010, Government Code, as
14 amended by this Act, applies only to a lease or contract entered
15 into on or after the effective date of this Act.

16 (b) Section 508.158, Government Code, as added by this Act,
17 applies only to an application to participate in a program
18 described by that section that is submitted on or after the
19 effective date of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.