

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.B. No. 599

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the life expectancies of inmates and correctional officers of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 493, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 493.034 to read as follows:

Sec. 493.034. LIFE EXPECTANCY OF INMATES AND CORRECTIONAL OFFICERS. (a) The department shall biennially review the average life expectancies of inmates confined in facilities operated by or under contract with the department and correctional officers employed by the department. In conducting the review, the department shall identify and rank, by severity, the types of traumas or conditions experienced by:

(1) inmates while confined that negatively affect the life expectancies of inmates; and

(2) correctional officers while working that negatively affect the life expectancies of correctional officers.

(b) The department shall adopt policies and implement methods or programs designed to:

(1) minimize the traumas or conditions identified under Subsection (a); and

(2) help inmates and correctional officers cope with the traumas or conditions.

(c) Not later than September 1 of each even-numbered year,

1 the department shall submit to the governor, the lieutenant
2 governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, and each
3 standing legislative committee with primary jurisdiction over the
4 department a report that:

5 (1) contains the results of the review conducted under
6 Subsection (a); and

7 (2) describes the policies, methods, or programs
8 adopted or implemented under Subsection (b) and the effect of those
9 policies, methods, or programs on the life expectancies of inmates
10 and correctional officers.

11 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.