

By: González of El Paso

H.B. No. 1308

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
2 relating to the establishment of a task force to conduct a  
3 comprehensive study on best practice standards for the confinement  
4 of pregnant prisoners in county jails.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) A task force is established to conduct a  
7 comprehensive study on best practice standards for the confinement  
8 of pregnant prisoners in county jails. The study must identify and  
9 make recommendations regarding the following with respect to the  
10 confinement of pregnant prisoners:

- 11 (1) current policies and procedures;  
12 (2) barriers to accommodations and justice;  
13 (3) best practices used in other states;  
14 (4) policies that would improve jail standards; and  
15 (5) any other issue the task force considers  
16 appropriate.

17 (b) The Commission on Jail Standards shall appoint the  
18 members of the task force. The task force must include at least:

- 19 (1) one representative of the Commission on Jail  
20 Standards;  
21 (2) one representative of a statewide organization  
22 that advocates for incarcerated women;  
23 (3) one representative of a statewide organization  
24 that represents corrections professionals;

- 1 (4) one representative of a county jail;
- 2 (5) one member who is a mental health professional;
- 3 (6) one member who is an obstetrician or gynecologist;
- 4 (7) one member who is a doula providing culturally
- 5 responsive care;
- 6 (8) one member who was pregnant while incarcerated;
- 7 and
- 8 (9) one member who is a certified reentry peer support
- 9 specialist.

10 (c) The member appointed under Subsection (b)(1) of this  
11 section serves as the presiding officer of the task force.

12 (d) The task force shall prepare a written report that  
13 includes:

- 14 (1) a description of the activities of the task force;
- 15 (2) the findings and recommendations of the task
- 16 force;
- 17 (3) a plan for how the best practice standards
- 18 identified by the task force can be implemented statewide;
- 19 (4) any proposals for legislation; and
- 20 (5) any other matter the task force considers
- 21 appropriate.

22 (e) Not later than December 1, 2022, the task force shall  
23 submit the report prepared under this section to:

- 24 (1) the governor;
- 25 (2) the lieutenant governor;
- 26 (3) the speaker of the house of representatives; and
- 27 (4) the presiding officers of the standing committees

1 of the senate and house of representatives having primary  
2 jurisdiction over issues relating to criminal justice.

3 (f) The Commission on Jail Standards shall make the report  
4 available to the public on the commission's Internet website.

5 (g) The task force is abolished and this Act expires  
6 September 1, 2023.

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