

By: Crockett

H.B. No. 1459

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a racial disparity impact statement attached to certain bills or resolutions creating or expanding criminal offenses.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 314, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 314.006 to read as follows:

Sec. 314.006. RACIAL DISPARITY IMPACT STATEMENT FOR CRIMINAL OFFENSES. (a) The board shall prepare a racial disparity impact statement for each bill or resolution that creates a new offense or significantly expands the applicability of an existing offense.

(b) The impact statement must include information concerning the impact of the legislation on racial and ethnic minority groups, including a statistical analysis of the impact on those groups with regard to sentencing of defendants and the eligibility of defendants for release on parole.

(c) The board shall consult with the Department of Public Safety and the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to develop a protocol for analyzing the impact of the bill or resolution on racial and ethnic minority groups.

(d) The impact statement must be attached to the bill or resolution immediately following:

(1) the fiscal note attached under Section 314.003; or

(2) if a dynamic fiscal impact statement is prepared

1 under Section 314.005, the dynamic fiscal impact statement.

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