

By: Canales

H.B. No. 1971

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the purchase and installation of climate control
3 systems at facilities operated by the Texas Department of Criminal
4 Justice.

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

6 SECTION 1. (a) In this section, "department" means the
7 Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

8 (b) The department shall:

9 (1) contract with a private entity through a
10 competitive bidding process to purchase and install climate control
11 systems at each facility operated by the department that is not
12 currently equipped with a climate control system capable of
13 maintaining the temperature in the facility at not less than 65
14 degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85 degrees Fahrenheit; and

15 (2) install the climate control systems in the
16 following phases, with each phase consisting of the installation of
17 climate control systems at approximately one-third of the
18 department's facilities at a cost not to exceed \$100 million per
19 phase:

20 (A) phase one to be completed not later than
21 December 31, 2024;

22 (B) phase two to be completed not later than
23 December 31, 2026; and

24 (C) phase three to be completed not later than

1 December 31, 2028.

2 (c) In conducting the competitive bidding process, the
3 department shall solicit bids for the entire scope of the project,
4 provided that the department may solicit bids for each phase of the
5 project if necessary or beneficial.

6 (d) In soliciting bids and determining the requirements for
7 the phased implementation of the project, the department shall:

8 (1) prioritize the efficient use of state resources;
9 and

10 (2) consider factors such as:

11 (A) the type of climate control systems needed
12 for each facility, including the architectural design of each
13 facility;

14 (B) the ability of any existing climate control
15 systems in each facility to maintain the air temperature in the
16 facility at not less than 65 degrees Fahrenheit or more than 85
17 degrees Fahrenheit;

18 (C) the comparable abilities of different
19 climate control systems to maintain the temperature described by
20 Paragraph (B) of this subdivision, including the total cellblock or
21 dormitory square footage each system is capable of maintaining at
22 that temperature; and

23 (D) the use of inmate labor to decrease costs.

24 SECTION 2. This Act expires January 1, 2031.

25 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
26 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
27 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this

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1 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.