

By: Davis

H.B. No. 3065

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of a commission to study the terminology of the penal laws and the justice system of this state.

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

SECTION 1. COMMISSION TO STUDY TERMINOLOGY OF PENAL LAWS AND JUSTICE SYSTEM OF THIS STATE. (a) A commission is created to study and review the terminology used in the penal laws and the justice system of this state, including the use of the words "crime," "criminal," "police," "police officer," and other similar terms.

(b) The commission shall:

(1) consider the use of terminology described by Subsection (a) of this section and evaluate whether the use of that terminology has a negative impact on the involvement of persons in the justice system of this state; and

(2) make recommendations to the legislature regarding any changes in terminology described by Subsection (a) of this section that may help to reduce the involvement of persons in the justice system of this state.

(c) The commission is composed of one representative from each of the following entities, appointed by the administrative head of that entity:

(1) the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement;

(2) the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board;

1           (3) the Caruth Police Institute located at the  
2 University of North Texas at Dallas;

3           (4) the Combined Law Enforcement Associations of Texas  
4 Retiree Association; and

5           (5) the Bill Blackwood Law Enforcement Management  
6 Institute of Texas located at Sam Houston State University.

7           (d) The entities making appointments under Subsection (c)  
8 of this section shall, to the greatest extent practicable, ensure  
9 that the composition of the commission reflects the racial and  
10 ethnic composition of the state.

11           (e) The members shall designate one member of the commission  
12 to serve as the presiding officer of the commission and another  
13 member of the commission to serve as the assistant presiding  
14 officer of the commission.

15           (f) A member of the commission is not entitled to  
16 compensation or reimbursement of expenses.

17           (g) The commission shall meet at the call of the presiding  
18 officer.

19           (h) As reasonable and necessary for the commission to  
20 fulfill the commission's duties under this Act:

21           (1) The Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall  
22 provide administrative support to the commission; and

23           (2) Prairie View A&M University shall provide research  
24 assistance to the commission.

25           (i) Not later than November 1, 2022, the commission shall  
26 report the commission's findings and recommendations to the  
27 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of

1 representatives, and the standing committees of the house of  
2 representatives and the senate with primary jurisdiction over  
3 criminal justice matters. The commission shall include in its  
4 recommendations any specific statutes that the commission  
5 recommends revising or repealing.

6 SECTION 2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS. Not later than the 60th  
7 day after the effective date of this Act, the entities making  
8 appointments under Section 1(c) of this Act shall appoint the  
9 members of the commission created under this Act.

10 SECTION 3. ABOLITION OF COMMISSION. The commission is  
11 abolished and this Act expires December 31, 2022.

12 SECTION 4. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
13 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
14 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
15 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
16 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2021.