

By: Menéndez

S.B. No. 820

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT  
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

S.B. No. 820

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

2 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.