

By: Birdwell

S.B. No. 1896

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the investigation of the death of a person in county jail or in the custody of the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. Section 501.055(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the inmate:

(1) dies of natural causes [~~while attended by a physician or a registered nurse~~]; [~~or~~]

(2) is lawfully executed; or

(3) dies in a manner that does not indicate an offense has been committed.

SECTION 2. Section 511.021(a), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) On the death of a prisoner in a county jail, other than a death from natural causes or occurring in a manner that does not indicate an offense has been committed, the commission shall appoint a law enforcement agency, other than the local law enforcement agency that operates the county jail, to investigate the death as soon as possible. Except as otherwise provided by Subsection (b), the appointed law enforcement agency shall conduct the investigation.

SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.