

By: Meza

H.B. No. 3721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to a study by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice
3 concerning the transparency, oversight, and accountability of the
4 use of the restrictive housing, security threat groups, and certain
5 disciplinary measures

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

7 SECTION 1. TITLE. This bill shall be known as the
8 Restrictive Housing / Solitary Confinement Standards and Reporting
9 Act.

10 SECTION 2. PURPOSE. The purpose of this bill is to enhance
11 transparency, oversight, and accountability regarding the use of
12 solitary confinement, also known as restrictive housing, STG, G4,
13 G5, ALU, and Death Row in TDCJ correctional facilities. The goal is
14 to track progress in improving standards for the treatment of
15 individuals in all forms of restrictive housing/solitary
16 confinement to ensure that correctional institutions uphold the
17 mental, physical, and rehabilitative well-being of those
18 incarcerated.

19 SECTION 3. DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this Act:

20 (a) Restrictive Housing includes all forms of solitary
21 confinement in TDCJ (G4, G5, STG, ALU, and Death Row). It refers to
22 the practice of placing an inmate in a physically isolated cell or
23 unit, with limited or no social interaction, with restrictions on
24 the amount of time outside the cell, and access to rehabilitative

1 programs or services.

2 (b) Restricted Housing refers to a similar form of
3 confinement as above, involving isolation with limited privileges,
4 often used for inmates who pose a risk to safety or security.

5 (c) Rehabilitative Programs refer to activities or services
6 aimed at improving the behavioral, psychological, educational, and
7 vocational outcomes for individuals incarcerated in solitary
8 confinement.

9 (d) Mental Health Diagnoses include any recognized
10 condition affecting the mental or emotional health of an
11 individual, such as anxiety disorders, depression, and
12 schizophrenia, among others.

13 (e) Medical or Psychiatric Emergencies refers to situations
14 where an individual in solitary confinement experiences severe
15 mental or physical distress that requires immediate medical or
16 psychiatric attention.

17 SECTION 4. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. The
18 Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall collect
19 comprehensive data to monitor and evaluate the use of solitary
20 confinement, also known as restricted housing. This data will be
21 used to track progress toward improving the conditions, standards,
22 and overall impact of solitary confinement placements. An annual
23 report shall be submitted to the Legislature containing data
24 including personal information, reasons for placement, program
25 access, staffing ratios, duration, facility utilization, mental
26 health impacts, and appeal outcomes.

27 SECTION 5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT. The Department

1 shall ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data collected
2 under this Act. Non-compliance will result in corrective actions
3 and potential independent audits. Any individual found to have
4 been wrongfully placed in solitary confinement or subjected to
5 prolonged confinement without just cause shall have legal recourse.

6 SECTION 6. IMPLEMENTATION. The Department of Corrections
7 and Rehabilitation shall begin implementing the provisions of this
8 Act within six months of the date of its enactment. Necessary
9 adjustments to data collection systems, staff training, and
10 reporting protocols shall be completed in a timely manner.

11 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on September 5, 2025,
12 or as soon as possible thereafter.