

By: Meza

H.B. No. 3725

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1
2 relating to the reform of solitary confinement practices and the
3 treatment of prisoners affiliated with security threat groups in
4 the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ).

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

6 SECTION 1. PURPOSE AND FINDINGS. The Texas Legislature
7 finds that:

8 (1) The use of indefinite solitary confinement,
9 particularly for individuals classified as members of Security
10 Threat Groups (STGs), has been shown to have detrimental effects on
11 mental health and rehabilitation.

12 (2) The use of solitary confinement as a tool for
13 classification, rather than based on actual behavior or
14 disciplinary actions, is ineffective and counterproductive.

15 (3) It is essential to promote rehabilitation,
16 reintegration, and due process for all incarcerated individuals,
17 ensuring the protection of their constitutional rights while
18 maintaining public safety.

19 (4) Reforming the practices surrounding solitary
20 confinement, the classification system, and parole review
21 processes will better align with constitutional standards and
22 foster the rehabilitation of individuals incarcerated in Texas
23 prisons.

24 SECTION 2. AMENDMENT OF SOLITARY CONFINEMENT PRACTICES.

1 (a) Abolition of Indefinite Solitary Confinement for STG Members.
2 Effective September 5th, 2026, the Texas Department of Criminal
3 Justice (TDCJ) shall no longer use indefinite solitary confinement
4 (Restricted Housing, RH) for individuals solely based on their
5 classification as confirmed or alleged members of a Security Threat
6 Group (STG).

7 (b) Behavioral-Based RH Assignment. Effective September
8 5th, 2026, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) shall no
9 longer use indefinite solitary confinement (Restricted Housing,
10 RH) for individuals solely based on their classification as
11 confirmed or alleged members of a Security Threat Group (STG).

12 (c) Criteria for Release from RH. Upon assignment to RH,
13 the individual shall be informed of clear and firm criteria for
14 release. If the individual meets the established criteria, they
15 shall be released back to the general population. TDCJ officials
16 shall be required to consider all relevant factors and behavior
17 when determining release from RH. Failure to do so will subject
18 officials to sanctions, including potential administrative
19 actions.

20 (d) Step-Down Program for STG Affiliates. Confirmed STG
21 affiliates who are found guilty of RH-eligible offenses will be
22 placed in a two-year step-down program designed for their gradual
23 return to general population after serving their RH term. Only
24 major offenses involving violent conduct, including serious bodily
25 injury or dangerous contraband, may result in an additional term of
26 up to two or five years.

27 (e) Creation of Restricted Custody General Population

1 (RCGP). TDCJ is directed to establish a new custody level known as
2 the Restricted Custody General Population (RCGP), which shall serve
3 as a secure alternative to solitary confinement for individuals
4 who:

5 (1) Are confirmed STG members but refuse to
6 participate in the step-down program.

7 (2) Have engaged in repeated misconduct in RH that
8 does not raise to the level of an RH eligible offense. RCGP shall
9 include provisions allowing prisoners to:

10 (A) Move around the facility without restraints.

11 (B) Participate in group recreation and contact
12 visits with family members.

13 (C) Engage in rehabilitative programs, including
14 educational and vocational training.

15 (f) Release of Long-Term RH Inmates. Any individual in RH
16 for any reason (&TG or non-&TG) who has been in RH for more than five
17 years as of January 10, 2026, and who has not committed a major
18 RH-eligible disciplinary infraction within the past two years,
19 shall be immediately released to the general population. No
20 individual shall be kept in RH or solitary confinement for more than
21 10 years.

22 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.