

By: Collier

H.B. No. 3841

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the investigation of the death of a prisoner in county jail.

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

SECTION 1. Section 511.021, Government Code, is amended by amending Subsection (a) and adding Subsections (b-1), (d), and (e) to read as follows:

(a) Not later than the 30th day after the date on which the commission is notified of a ~~[On the]~~ death of a prisoner in a county jail, 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 and shall begin the investigation as soon as practicable after being appointed under this subsection.

(b-1) As soon as practicable after a law enforcement agency is appointed by the commission under Subsection (a), the agency shall notify the commission regarding whether the agency is accepting the appointment or intends to present evidence to the commission under Subsection (b).

(d) The commission shall publish on the commission's Internet website the following information for each death of a prisoner in a county jail:

1           (1) the county where the death occurred;

2           (2) the date that the death occurred;

3           (3) the name of the law enforcement agency appointed  
4 under Subsection (a) to investigate the death;

5           (4) the date on which the law enforcement agency was  
6 appointed;

7           (5) if the commission determines there is a conflict  
8 of interest with the appointed law enforcement agency:

9                   (A) the name of the new law enforcement agency  
10 appointed to investigate the death; and

11                   (B) the date on which the new law enforcement  
12 agency was appointed; and

13           (6) whether the investigation is pending or completed.

14           (e) The information described by Subsection (d) must:

15                   (1) be updated monthly; and

16                   (2) remain published on the Internet website until at  
17 least the second anniversary of the date of the prisoner's death.

18           SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.