

By: White of Tyler

H.B. No. 2448

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the creation of an advisory committee to examine the state jail system within the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

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

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. In this Act:

(1) "Department" means the Texas Department of Criminal Justice.

(2) "State jail" means a state jail felony facility operated by or under contract with the department under Section 507.001, Government Code.

SECTION 2. VOLUNTARY STATE JAIL ADVISORY COMMITTEE. Not later than December 1, 2015, the department shall convene an advisory committee composed of volunteers to review the problems facing the state jail system and provide recommendations to guide state criminal justice policies and practices relating to state jails.

SECTION 3. MEMBERS; PRESIDING OFFICER. (a) In recruiting volunteers to serve on the advisory committee, the department shall include members who are interested parties, including:

(1) representatives of the department;

(2) representatives of community supervision and corrections departments established under Chapter 76, Government Code;

(3) district or county attorneys in this state;

1           (4) criminal defense attorneys;

2           (5) individuals who have expertise in the state jail  
3 system and are members of an advocacy or civil rights organization;

4           (6) individuals who have expertise in issues related  
5 to criminal justice and criminal law;

6           (7) individuals who have expertise in issues related  
7 to substance abuse and mental health;

8           (8) individuals who were formerly incarcerated in the  
9 state jail system; and

10          (9) any other individuals or organizations who may be  
11 helpful in addressing the problems facing the state jail system.

12          (b) The advisory committee shall designate one of the  
13 members as presiding officer of the committee.

14          SECTION 4. REPORT. (a) Not later than August 1, 2016, the  
15 advisory committee shall submit to the department, including the  
16 community justice assistance division of the department, the  
17 governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of  
18 representatives, and the standing committees in the senate and  
19 house of representatives primarily responsible for criminal  
20 justice issues a report containing the recommendations developed  
21 under Section 2 of this Act.

22          (b) The department shall make the report submitted under  
23 Subsection (a) of this section available to the public and shall  
24 publish the report on its Internet website.

25          SECTION 5. COMPENSATION. Members of the advisory committee  
26 serve without compensation and are not entitled to reimbursement  
27 for expenses.

1           SECTION 6. APPLICATION OF LAWS GOVERNING ADVISORY  
2 COMMITTEES. The advisory committee is not subject to Chapter 2110,  
3 Government Code.

4           SECTION 7. EXPIRATION DATE. The advisory committee is  
5 abolished and this Act expires January 1, 2017.

6           SECTION 8. EFFECTIVE DATE. This Act takes effect  
7 immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members  
8 elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas  
9 Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for  
10 immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2015.