

By: Meza

H.B. No. 3721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a study by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice concerning the transparency, oversight, and accountability of the use of the restrictive housing, security threat groups, and certain disciplinary measures

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

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

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

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

(a) Restrictive Housing includes all forms of solitary confinement in TDCJ (G4, G5, STG, ALU, and Death Row). It refers

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to the practice of placing an inmate in a physically isolated cell or unit, with limited or no social interaction, with restrictions on the amount of time outside the cell, and access to rehabilitative programs or services.

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

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

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

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

SECTION 4. DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation shall collect comprehensive data to monitor and evaluate the use of solitary confinement, also known as restricted housing. This data will be used to track progress toward improving the conditions, standards,

44 and overall impact of solitary confinement placements.  
45 An annual report shall be submitted to the Legislature containing  
46 data including personal information, reasons for placement,  
47 program access, staffing ratios, duration, facility utilization,  
48 mental health impacts, and appeal outcomes.

49 SECTION 5. COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT. The Department shall  
50 ensure the accuracy and timeliness of the data collected under  
51 this Act. Non-compliance will result in corrective actions and  
52 potential independent audits. Any individual found to have been  
53 wrongfully placed in solitary confinement or subjected to  
54 prolonged confinement without just cause shall have legal  
55 recourse.

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

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

