

AN ACT

relating to a report to the legislature regarding the installation and operation of video camera surveillance systems in county jails.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter A, Chapter 351, Local Government Code, is amended by adding Section 351.016 to read as follows:

Sec. 351.016. REPORT TO LEGISLATURE ON VIDEO CAMERA SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS. (a) Not later than December 1, 2004, the Commission on Jail Standards shall submit to the presiding officer of each house of the legislature and to the presiding officer of the standing committee of the house of representatives having primary jurisdiction over county affairs a report that describes:

(1) the feasibility of installing and operating in county jails video camera surveillance systems that record video images in each jail corridor, solitary confinement cell, suicide watch cell, kitchen, and dining area or other common area;

(2) the probability and nature of changes in technology affecting the installation and operation of systems described by Subdivision (1);

(3) potential sources of revenue available to counties to pay for video camera surveillance systems, including jail commissary proceeds and possible increases in court costs;

(4) areas in county jails not described by Subdivision (1) that nonetheless should be monitored by surveillance systems;

1 and

2 (5) the feasibility of implementing and using other  
3 cost-effective means to address the issues presenting an apparent  
4 need for video camera surveillance systems, such as:

5 (A) a system ensuring that medical records  
6 accompany inmates at each stage of incarceration;

7 (B) a system of separating inmates according to  
8 offense seriousness;

9 (C) a program to identify inmates with illnesses  
10 or with suicidal tendencies; and

11 (D) a program to provide individual counseling to  
12 inmates on their admission to jail.

13 (b) The Commission on Jail Standards shall include in the  
14 report submitted under Subsection (a) information stating by  
15 county:

16 (1) the number of suicides committed by inmates  
17 confined in the county jail;

18 (2) the number of assaults committed against inmates  
19 confined in the county jail;

20 (3) the number of assaults committed by inmates  
21 confined in the county jail against the sheriff or an officer or  
22 employee of the county jail;

23 (4) the number of lawsuits filed against the county as  
24 a result of suicides and assaults;

25 (5) the costs incurred by the county in defending  
26 those lawsuits; and

27 (6) the judgments awarded against the county in those

1 lawsuits.

2 (c) This section expires December 2, 2004.

3 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.

David Newkum

President of the Senate

Jim Cusick

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1660 was passed by the House on May 16, 2003, by a non-record vote; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 1660 on May 30, 2003, by a non-record vote.

Robert Haney

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1660 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 28, 2003, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Patsy Spaw

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: 18 JUNE '03

Date

Rick Perry

Governor

FILED IN THE OFFICE OF THE  
SECRETARY OF STATE  
8:30 am O'CLOCK

JUN 18 2003  
Kepp Shea  
Secretary of State