

- SUBJECT:** Requiring TDCJ policies to increase female inmates' access to programs
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 9 ayes — White, Allen, Bailes, Bowers, Dean, Morales, Neave, Sherman, Stephenson
- 0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Koretta Brown Knox, Texas Coalition of Black Democrats; Lindsey Linder, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; Grace Pohl; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Pamela Brubaker, Austin Justice Coalition; Traci Berry, Goodwill Central Texas; Cate Graziani, Grassroots Leadership and Texas Advocates for Justice; Kathleen Mitchell, Just Liberty; Julia Egler, National Alliance on Mental Illness-Texas; Rene Lara, Texas AFL-CIO; Lori Henning, Texas Association of Goodwills; Kathryn Freeman, Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission; Michael Barba, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Charlie Malouff, Texas Inmate Families Association; Patty Quinzi, Texas-American Federation of Teachers; Darwin Hamilton; Sally Hernandez; Carl F. Hunter II; Maria Person)
- Against — None
- On — Rene Hinojosa, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Kristina Hartman, Windham School District; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Clint Carpenter and Robert O'Banion, Windham School District)
- BACKGROUND:** Some have noted that women incarcerated in the Texas Department of Criminal Justice have access to fewer programs than male inmates and that increasing access to programs could aid in rehabilitative efforts.
- DIGEST:** HB 3227 would require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to develop and implement policies to increase and promote female inmates' access to programs offered by TDCJ, including educational, vocational, substance use treatment, rehabilitation, life skills training, and

prerelease programs. TDCJ could not reduce or limit male inmates' access to a program to meet this requirement.

TDCJ would have to submit an annual report on the policies and programs to the governor, lieutenant governor, House speaker, certain legislative committees, and the state's reentry task force. The report would have to include a description of policies that were created, modified, or eliminated during the previous year and a list of programs available the previous year to female inmates. The report would be due by December 31 each year, and the agency would have to publish it on its website. TDCJ would have to submit the first report by December 31, 2020.

TDCJ would have to develop and implement the policies as soon as practicable after the bill's effective date.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.