

- SUBJECT:** Requiring TDCJ to submit report on pregnant inmates in its facilities
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — White, Allen, S. Davis, Romero, Sanford, Schaefer, Tinderholt
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Matt Simpson, ACLU of Texas; Jennifer Allmon, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Kathy Mitchell, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition)
Against — None
On — Lorie Davis and Lannette Linthicum, Texas Department Criminal Justice
- BACKGROUND:** The 84th Legislature in 2015 enacted HB 1140 by Israel, which required county sheriffs to submit a report on pregnant inmates' confinement conditions in county jails by September 1, 2016. The report had to summarize the implementation of health care services for pregnant inmates; the number of miscarriages pregnant inmates experienced while confined; pregnant inmates' nutritional standards, housing conditions, and work assignments; and situations involving the use of restraints.
- DIGEST:** HB 239 would require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to collect data and submit a report on the confinement of pregnant inmates in facilities operated by or under contract with it. The report would include:
- a description of TDCJ's implementation of policies and procedures for providing adequate care to pregnant inmates and any policies adopted by TDCJ on the placement of a pregnant inmate in administrative segregation;
 - information on the availability of certain health care services to pregnant inmates;

- a detailed summary of pregnant inmates' nutritional standards, work assignments, and housing conditions;
- situations involving the use of restraints; and
- the number of miscarriages experienced by pregnant inmates in TDCJ facilities between September 1, 2017, and September 1, 2018.

TDCJ would have to submit the report to the governor, lieutenant governor, speaker of the House, and the applicable House and Senate standing committees by December 1, 2018.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2017, and would expire February 1, 2019.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 239 would establish uniformity between county jails and all facilities operated or contracted by the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) and increase transparency in the standard of care pregnant inmates received at those facilities. Extending the one-time reporting requirement of pregnant inmates' confinement conditions from county jails to TDCJ's facilities would help policymakers identify best practices and ongoing challenges of housing pregnant inmates. More data is necessary to ensure pregnant inmates receive an adequate level of medical and nutritional care.

**OPPONENTS
SAY:**

No apparent opposition.