

- SUBJECT:** Establishing maximum caseload guidelines for parole officers
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — committee substitute recommended
- VOTE:** 5 ayes — Madden, Hochberg, McReynolds, Haggerty, Jones
0 nays
2 absent — Dunnam, Oliveira
- WITNESSES:** For — Richard J. Clements, Texas State Employees Union; Ana Yanez-Correa, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Delia Cabello, Concerned Christians for Inmates; Lisa Gabbert; Ferdinand M. Nwagbo, Texas State Employees Union; Rona Stratton Smith)
Against — None
On — Bryan Collier, Texas Department of Criminal Justice
- BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 508 creates the Board of Pardons and Paroles, and Government Code, sec. 508.112 makes the Pardons and Paroles Division responsible for the investigation and supervision of all released state inmates.
- DIGEST:** CSHB 3736 would amend Government Code, ch. 508, adding sec. 508.1142 to require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to adopt guidelines for the maximum number of released state inmates assigned as a caseload for a parole officer. The maximum caseload would be one officer for:
- 60 released inmates, if they were not in specialized programs;
 - 35 released inmates, if they were in special needs offender programs;
 - 35 released inmates, if they were in therapeutic community substance abuse aftercare treatment programs;
 - 24 released inmates, if they were in sex offender programs;
 - 20 released inmates, if they were electronically monitored; and

- 11 released inmates, if they were in super-intensive supervision programs.

The bill would require Texas Department of Criminal Justice, at the end of the fiscal year of each year that the department failed to meet the guidelines, to submit a report to the Legislative Budget Board (LBB) stating the amount of money required to meet the guidelines.

The maximum caseload policy would have to be adopted by September 1, 2007. The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2007.

NOTES:

The original version of the bill would have made the maximum caseload policy mandatory, and LBB fiscal note estimated that it would have cost \$30.3 million a year to adopt the guidelines. The revised fiscal note for CSHB 3736 indicates that there would be no significant cost to the state because of the bill.