

- SUBJECT:** Mental health assessment of inmates prior to administrative segregation
- COMMITTEE:** Corrections — favorable, without amendment
- VOTE:** 7 ayes — Murphy, J. White, Allen, Keough, Krause, Schubert, Tinderholt
0 nays
- WITNESSES:** For — Greg Hansch, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Douglas Smith, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Matt Simpson, ACLU of Texas; Katharine Ligon, Center for Public Policy Priorities; Cate Graziani, Mental Health America of Texas; Laura Austin, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Patricia Cummings, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; Lauren Johnson)

Against — None

On — Lannette Linthicum, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; (*Registered, but did not testify:* Brad Livingston, Texas Department of Criminal Justice; Cynthia Jumper, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center)
- BACKGROUND:** The Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) houses some inmates in administrative segregation, also known as solitary confinement. Before being placed in administrative segregation, inmates undergo a health assessment, including mental health. If medical staff determine that the inmate's mental health precludes assignment to administrative segregation, an alternative placement in an inpatient psychiatric facility is available.
- DIGEST:** HB 1083 would require TDCJ to perform a mental health assessment on an inmate before the inmate could be confined in administrative segregation. TDCJ could not confine an inmate in administrative segregation if the assessment indicated that administrative segregation would not be appropriate for the inmate's medical or mental health.

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The bill would take effect September 1, 2015.