

SUBJECT: Requiring TDCJ to screen pregnant inmates for depression

COMMITTEE: Corrections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 8 ayes — Herrero, Kacal, Allen, V. Jones, R. Lopez, Sherman, Swanson, Toth
0 nays
1 absent — Murr

WITNESSES: For — Elaine Campbell, Lioness Justice Impacted Women's Alliance (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Dr. Charles E Brown, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists—District XI (Texas); Jennifer Toon, Lioness Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance; Christine Yanas, Methodist Healthcare Ministries; Alec Mendoza, Texans Care for Children; Cole Meyer, Texas Appleseed; Charlie Malouff, Renee Monroe, Texas C.U.R.E., Inc; Jenny Hixon, Texas Civil Rights Project; Jill Sutton, Texas Osteopathic Medical Association; Mary Sue Molnar, Texas Voices; Rachel Wolleben, Texas Women’s Healthcare Coalition; and eight individuals)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Bobby Lumpkin, Texas Department of Criminal Justice)

BACKGROUND: Concerns have been raised that pregnant inmates have more difficulty accessing depression screenings than the general public.

DIGEST: HB 2044 would require the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) to ensure that each inmate who was pregnant or who had given birth in the preceding year would be screened for depression once each trimester during the pregnancy, once during the six-week period after giving birth, and at six and 12 months after giving birth. By December 1, 2023, the Commission on Jail Standards would be required to adopt minimum

requirements for a county jail to conduct these screenings.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.