

BILL ANALYSIS

Senate Research Center

H.B. 1142
By: Patterson (Cain)
Criminal Justice
5-14-97
Engrossed

DIGEST

For many counties in the state that have limited jail facilities, jail overcrowding is a constant problem. In many instances, arrested persons are released or bonded out within 72 hours. Current law requires counties to report the total number of inmates confined in the county jail on the first day of each month. This provides an unrealistic representation of the actual inmate population with regards to those inmates which are reported but were only incarcerated for a period of less than 72 hours. Consequently, a county can be considered to be in violation of jail population requirements adopted by the Commission on Jail Standards. This bill will provide new regulations regarding the determination of the inmate population of a county jail.

PURPOSE

As proposed, H.B. 1142 provides new regulations regarding the determination of the inmate population of a county jail.

RULEMAKING AUTHORITY

This bill does not grant any additional rulemaking authority to a state officer, institution, or agency.

SECTION BY SECTION ANALYSIS

SECTION 1. Amends Section 511.0101(a), Government Code, to require each county to submit to the Commission on Jail Standards on or before the 10th day of each month a report containing the number of prisoners confined in the county jail on the first Friday of the month, rather than on the first day of the month. Makes conforming and nonsubstantive changes.

SECTION 2. Makes application of this Act prospective.

SECTION 3. Emergency clause.
Effective date: upon passage.