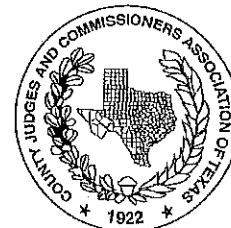


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State Affairs Committee

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- **Identify Successful Re-Entry Programs:** Study current reentry programs and procedures across Texas' adult criminal justice system and identify which are most effective. Review best practices and make recommendations to ensure that incarcerated individuals who are released from a county or city jail, state jail, or the Texas Department of Criminal Justice have adequate supervision and access to employment, housing, treatment, and other support programs to allow for successful reentry and integration into the community and to prevent recidivism.
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- **Monitoring:** Monitor the implementation of legislation addressed by the Senate Criminal Justice Committee during the 85th Legislature and make recommendations for any legislation needed to improve, enhance, and/or complete implementation of the following:
 - Senate Bill 12, Relating to the creation of a grant program to assist law enforcement agencies with the purchase of bulletproof vests and body armor;
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 - Senate Bill 1326, Relating to procedures regarding criminal defendants who are or may be persons with a mental illness or an intellectual disability and to certain duties of the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System related to persons with mental illness.

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Committee on Appropriations

- Review state funding, including formula funds, for adult probation departments and the juvenile justice system. Consider recommendations to enhance equity, encourage the use of cost-effective practices, and meet the future needs of departments and counties throughout the state.
- Study the state crime lab operational structure and recommend strategies to increase efficiency, including the possibility of establishing a fee for certain services to minimize duplication and encourage timely processing.

Committee on Corrections

- Examine the use of social workers and peer support specialists in the Texas criminal justice system to assist individuals on probation, on parole, or who have been discharged, in order to reduce recidivism and improve outcomes. Identify best practices and make recommendations for legislative action.
- Examine the current Texas criminal justice system policies and practices regarding 17- to 25- year olds, specific to probation, parole, state jail confinement, and discharge from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice or county jail. Review any gaps in services that may be causing this population to recidivate. Make recommendations to improve the state's response to the needs of this population in order to lower revocation, re-arrest, and re-incarceration rates.
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- Study how counties identify defendants' and inmates' behavioral health needs and deferral opportunities to appropriate rehabilitative and transition services. Consider models for ensuring defendants and inmates with mental illness receive appropriate services upon release from the criminal justice system.

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Committee on General Investigating & Ethics

- Review conflict of interest laws governing public officers and employees to ensure that such laws are adequate to maintain the public's confidence in government decision-making. Review personal financial statement requirements to ensure that the public has sufficient information on the private financial interests of public officers.
- Examine the Judicial Campaign Fairness Act and identify opportunities to improve the Act.

Committee on Government Transparency & Operation

- Review Texas' open meeting laws and related government decision-making policies. Determine if the formal processes prevented the efficient delivery of assistance during Hurricane Harvey. Make recommendations on maintaining the current standards of accountability without limiting government-provided aid during disaster events.
- Evaluate whether, in light of recent Texas Supreme Court rulings, the provisions of the Public Information Act are adequate to support transparency and accountability in government, particularly as it relates to government contracting and procurement.

Committee on Homeland Security & Public Safety

- Monitor the implementation of gun legislation passed by the 85th Legislature.
- Evaluate opportunities for DPS to expedite the driver license renewal process.

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- Study the effects of Hurricane Harvey on the courts and legal system. Examine whether existing statutes granting authority to the Texas Supreme Court and Texas Court of Criminal Appeals are adequate to address potential needs during emergencies. Study the effects of Harvey on civil legal aid programs in general, and specifically in regard to legal problems faced by those impacted.
- Examine the increasing use of non-traditional methods of resolving legal disputes and interacting with the legal system, and the implications of this trend both for the parties involved and the legal system as a whole. Include an examination of the availability and use of self-help resources, recent efforts by the Legislature and courts to increase access to justice for unrepresented litigants, and the use of online dispute resolution.
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- Examine the jurisdictional thresholds of the justice, county, and district courts, including how these limits and other factors impact the caseload of the courts. Study possible improvements in the efficient organization and operation of the court system.
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- Study the issue of adult criminal responsibility for 17-year-olds. Review juvenile justice penalties and sanctions determined by a juvenile's age. Identify best practices in other states relating to juvenile age. Make recommendations regarding penalties and sanctions in the juvenile age population.
- Evaluate the use of telemedicine to improve behavioral health services in the juvenile justice system.

Committee on State Affairs

- Monitor the implementation and ongoing litigation of S.B. 4 (85R).

Select Committee on Opioids and Substance Abuse

- Study the prevalence and impact of substance use and substance use disorders in Texas, including co-occurring mental illness. Study the prevalence and impact of opioids and synthetic drugs in Texas. Review the history of overdoses and deaths due to overdoses. Also review other health-related impacts due to substance abuse. Identify substances that are contributing to overdoses, related deaths and health impacts, and compare the data to other states. During the review, identify effective and efficient prevention and treatment responses by health care systems, including hospital districts and coordination across state and local governments. Recommend solutions to prevent overdoses and related health impacts and deaths in Texas.
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