

HB 510 -- Private Jails

Sponsor: Hoskins (121)

This bill establishes requirements for private jails and brings private jails under the same guidelines and penalties which govern county and city jails. Crimes against jail damage, escape, smuggling prohibited items, and possession of contraband and weapons will carry the same penalties as those for county or city jails. Prisoners in private jails must be separated by gender and cause for incarceration. Private jail administrators must arrange for necessary health care and provide adequate food, clothing, and bedding in the same manner as in county or city jails.

Employees of private jails are required to immediately report any evidence of prisoner abuse or any other violation of law occurring within the facility to the administrator who must immediately notify the county sheriff. Other persons believing that there has been prisoner abuse or other violations may report it to the county sheriff or the State Highway Patrol.