

Independent Oversight



Texas Board of Criminal Justice

governing body of TDCJ, which is the largest prison system in America

adopts rules and standards

does not conduct investigations

approves TDCJ's operating budget and requests for appropriations

applies for and accepts gifts and grants



"While at times a horrific problem or scandal in a correctional facility or facilities, such as the sexual abuse of inmates, attracts headlines, the public is mostly oblivious about conditions in prisons, jails, and other correctional and detention facilities, even those within their own communities... They need not be." -American Bar Association

Office of the Independent Ombudsman proposed by HB 363

would review TDCJ's procedures

would conduct investigations of complaints

would periodically review and inspect facilities

would immediately report any serious cases of abuse or problems

would submit periodic, public reports to the Governor, Lieutenant Governor, State Auditor, and Legislature on its work and the results of any investigations or reviews

would make recommendations regarding the operations of TDCJ



**Support
HB 363**

"You just can't have the fox watching the hen house. They're not doing their job." -Rep. Jarvis Johnson



HB 363 will create independent oversight of Texas' state corrections system, promoting accountability, providing cost savings, and protecting the rights and well-being of incarcerated individuals and staff