

2023 LEGISLATIVE BILL BOOK

March 2nd – 5th
Austin, Texas



FOR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT®
FOR HEALTHY LIVING
FOR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT



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YMCA TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT 2023 Legislative Bills Signed into Law

HIGH SCHOOL BILLS SIGNED BY
GOVERNOR Daniel Gonzalez

Bill Number	Bill Caption	Author	Delegation
FS09	An act stopping the use of solitary confinement in Texas state prisons and jails and declaring an emergency.	Bell, Kara- Elisabeth	W.E. Boswell High School
HB083	An act prohibiting covered employers from inquiring about an individual's criminal history information, including running background checks, until after a conditional employment offer has been made and declaring an emergency.	Manz, Eleanor	Imagine International Academy of North Texas
HB049	An act lessening the severity of drug charges on first time offenders under the age of 21 exempting those charged with trafficking and declaring an emergency.	Hooper, Bronson	Duncanville High School
FS02	An act to amend the Texas Family health code for compliance with the Mature Minor Doctrine and declaring an emergency.	Amer, Azal	Greenhill School



A BILL
TO BE ENTITLED

1 An act stopping the use of solitary confinement in Texas state prisons and jails and declaring an
2 emergency.

3
4 Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.

5
6 Section I. DEFINITIONS:

7 Solitary Confinement – a form of imprisonment where the prisoner is forced to live secluded and is
8 deprived of meaningful human contact.

9
10 Section II. PROVISIONS:

- 11 i) Texas prisons and jails must stop the use of all solitary confinement for more than 12 hours
12 immediately. Both forms of solitary confinement will be banned from practice for extensive
13 periods of time including:
14 a. Disciplinary Segregation
15 b. Administrative Segregation
16 ii) Inmates who have been held in solitary confinement before this bill is enacted will be subjected to
17 a psychological exam given by a licensed professional in order to ensure they were not
18 psychologically affected by their time in solitary confinement.
19 a. If an inmate does show signs of a new or worsening mental illnesses, they should receive
20 the correct treatment for it. They should be released out of solitary confinement.
21 b. If an inmate does not show signs of new or worsening mental illnesses, they should be
22 released from solitary confinement, but should be monitored for signs of mental
23 instability.
24 iii) Cells formerly used for solitary confinement should be cleaned up and used as single cells for
25 intimates who are recommended for single cell living due to medical conditions that require it.

26
27 Section III. PENALTIES:

- 28 i) Prisons and jails who are not compliant will be subjected to review by the Correctional Institution
29 Division under the department of Criminal Justice.
30 a. Individual offenders will be sentenced to a minimum of 3 years and a maximum of 20
31 years. Offenders may also receive a fine of up to \$9,000. Offenders who have an inmate
32 die or attempt to commit suicide must receive a minimum of 10 years.
33 b. Offenders will not be able to work in government positions under the State including
34 positions that fall under counties and cities in the state.

35
36 Section IV. EFFECTIVE DATE:

37 This act shall take effect thirty (30) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

38 Section V. REPEALER CLAUSE:

39 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

40
41 Section VI. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:

42 If any portion of this act shall be declared unconstitutional, it is the intent of the Legislature that the
43 other portions shall remain in full force and effect.

44
45 Section VII. EMERGENCY CLAUSE:

46 The importance of this legislation and the crowded condition of the calendar in both Houses create an
47 emergency and an imperative public necessity that the constitutional Rule requiring bills to be read on
48 three separate days in each House be suspended, and this Rule is hereby suspended.



TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Eleanor Manz
YMCA: McKinney YMCA

YMCA Delegation: Imagine International Academy of North Texas
City: McKinney Grade: 9th

HB083

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 An act prohibiting covered employers from inquiring about an individual's criminal history information,
2 including running background checks, until after a conditional employment offer has been made and
3 declaring an emergency.

4
5 Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.

6 7 Section I. DEFINITIONS:

8 **Covered Employers:** Employers, including staffing agencies, with at least 15 individuals who primarily
9 work in Texas for each working day for 20 or more calendar weeks in the current or preceding calendar
10 year. Excludes corporations owned solely by the United States government.

11 **Conditional Employment Offer:** An oral or written offer by an employer to employ an individual in a
12 job that is conditioned solely on the employer's individualized assessment of the individual's criminal
13 history.

14 **Individualized Assessment:** Evaluation of the criminal history of an individual that includes, at a
15 minimum, the nature and gravity of any offenses in the individual's criminal history, the length of time
16 since the offense and completion of the sentence, and the nature and duties of the job for which the
17 individual has applied.

18 19 Section II. PROVISIONS:

20 A. This bill would prohibit covered employers from inquiring about an individual's criminal history on
21 an employment application, soliciting or considering criminal history information about an
22 individual, or disqualifying an individual for not disclosing criminal history information before
23 extending a conditional offer of employment.

24 B. After a conditional offer of employment has been made, the employer can then conduct an
25 individualized assessment of the individual, leading to a decision on whether to follow through
26 with the job offer. If the offer is rescinded, the employer must tell the individual in writing that
27 their criminal history prevented them from getting the job.

28 C. This bill would also prohibit covered employers from stating in a job posting that an individual's
29 criminal history disqualifies him or her from employment consideration.

30 31 Section III. PENALTIES:

32 A. With each offense, there will be a 0.02% tax on the employer's profits lasting 1 month.

33 B. Each additional offense will add another month to the sentence.

34 35 Section IV. EFFECTIVE DATE:

36 This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

37 38 Section V. REPEALER CLAUSE:

39 All laws or parts of laws in conflict with this bill are herewith repealed to the extent of the conflict.

40 41 Section VI. SEVERABILITY CLAUSE:

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43 other portions shall remain in full force and effect.

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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Bronson Hooper YMCA Delegation: Duncanville High School
YMCA: Oak Cliff Delegation City: Duncanville Grade: 12th

HB049

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 An act lessening the severity of drug charges on first time offenders under the age of 21 exempting those
2 charged with trafficking and declaring an emergency.

3
4 Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.

5
6 Section I. DEFINITIONS:

- 7 1. Drugs: Schedule 1-4 controlled substances
- 8 2. Schedule 1-4: a classification system of drugs based on their potential for abuse and accepted
9 medical usage with Group 1 being the most abusive and least acceptable
- 10 3. Cognitive ability- a general mental capability involving reasoning, problem solving, planning,
11 abstract thinking, complex idea comprehension, and learning from experience

12
13 Section II. PROVISIONS:

- 14 A. 1st time offenders who end up with drug charges will have a maximum penalty of a \$500 fine and
15 a jail sentence of 180 days.
- 16 B. Minimum penalties will include substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation assistance. Drug
17 charges on 1st time offenders are typically misdemeanors or felonies.
- 18 C. This bill will make drug charges on 1st time offenders misdemeanors instead of felonies and place
19 them in rehab centers.
- 20 D. The minimum length of time an offender of this instance would be within the care of the
21 rehabilitation facility would be 90 days; however, the judge can extend this period to 1 year(365
22 days) at most.
- 23 E. Following the rehabilitation, the offender would be enrolled in a sponsorship program to ensure
24 prevention of future substance abuse.

25
26 Section III. PENALTIES:

- 27 1st time offense: One year probation
- 28 2nd time offense-A fine of \$5,000 and withdrawal of 10% of the court's funding.
- 29 3rd time- a fine of \$10,000 and withdrawal of 15% of the court's funding
- 30 4th & onward- a fine of \$20,000 and withdrawal of 25% of the court's funding

31
32 Section IV. EFFECTIVE DATE:

33 This act shall take effect ninety (90) days after the adjournment of the Youth Legislature.

34
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TEXAS YOUTH AND GOVERNMENT

Author: Azal Amer
YMCA: Semones Family

YMCA Delegation: Greenhill School
City: Dallas. Grade: 12th

FS02

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 An act to amend the Texas Family health code for compliance with the Mature Minor Doctrine and
2 declaring an emergency.

3
4 Be it enacted by the YMCA Youth Legislature of the State of Texas.

5
6 Section I. DEFINITIONS:

- 7 a. Informed Consent- The process by which a patient learns about and understands the purpose,
8 benefits, and potential risks of a medical or surgical intervention, including clinical trials, and then
9 agrees to receive the treatment or participate in the trial. Informed consent generally requires
10 the patient or responsible party to sign a statement confirming that they understand the risks and
11 benefits of the procedure or treatment.
- 12 b. Medical Professional - The process by which a patient learns about and understands the purpose,
13 benefits, and potential risks of a medical or surgical intervention, including clinical trials, and then
14 agrees to receive the treatment or participate in the trial. Informed consent generally requires
15 the patient or responsible party to sign a statement confirming that they understand the risks and
16 benefits of the procedure or treatment.
- 17 c. Medical Malpractice - a legal cause of action that occurs when a medical or health care
18 professional, through a negligent act or omission, deviates from standards in their profession,
19 thereby causing injury to a patient
- 20 d. Mature Minor - Any unemancipated minor of sufficient intelligence to understand and appreciate
21 the consequences of the proposed surgical or medical treatment or procedures, for themselves
- 22 e. Texas Family Code- all the formal rules that govern family law in Texas
- 23 f. Texas Administrative Code §115.40 – All the formal rules that govern education for high school
24 students on Health in the context of the real world
- 25 g. Unambiguous- A concept that can be understood in it's intended meaning by at least 70% of it's
26 reference population

27 Section II. PROVISIONS:

- 28 a. Re-write the Texas Family Code §§ 32.003 according to standards based on the mature minor
29 doctrine.
- 30 b. Require physicians to inform minors of their rights in medical contexts
- 31 c. Allocate \$10,000 to fund medical programs to restructure their respective medical ethics courses,
32 to allow providing informed consent for mature minors
 - 33 i. Ensure courses educating potential doctors on all forms of consent are unambiguous as
34 defined.
- 35 d. Rewrite the Texas Administrative Code §115.40 to include lessons on informed medical consent

36 Section III. Penalties:

- 37 a. If a medical professional refuses the informed consent of the individual, all penalties and liabilities
38 for malpractice will cross-apply.
- 39 b. If a medical institution is found to be systematically preventing mature minors from consenting to
40 procedures, they will be fined \$100,000 for each incident after the initial report.

41 Section IV. EFFECTIVE DATE:

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