

# TEXAS COMMISSION ON JAIL STANDARDS

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
Brandon S. Wood



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November 10, 2017

Dear Sheriff and Jail Administrator,


The 85<sup>th</sup> Legislature has passed, and Governor Abbott signed SB 1849, commonly referred to as "The Sandra Bland Act," requiring changes to Minimum Jail Standards. As part of these changes, Section 3.05 reenacts Government Code 511.009(a) (23) (C), requiring installation of automated electronic sensors or cameras to ensure accurate and timely in-person checks of cells or groups of cells confining at-risk individuals. All facilities are required to comply with these requirements by September 1, 2020.

In order to assist you in determining whether your facility meets the requirements of SB 1849, we are requesting that each county provide us floor plans of their facility. If your county operates more than one facility, please provide a floor plan of each one. When you submit these floor plans, holding cells, detoxification cells, separation cells, single cells, and violent cells will need to be clearly identified. If electronic sensors or cameras are already provided at or near these cells, their locations need to be denoted on the floor plans. Please provide the requested information by December 15, 2017.

Counties operating a jail with a capacity of 96 beds or less are eligible to apply for funding to meet the requirements of SB 1849. A separate letter with additional information will be forwarded to these counties by December 15, 2017.

If you have any questions or concerns regarding this message, do not hesitate to contact our office. For specific questions relating to the Prisoner Safety Fund grant, please contact Planner Jason Ross, [jason.ross@tcjs.state.tx.us](mailto:jason.ross@tcjs.state.tx.us), to request additional information.

Respectfully,

  
Brandon S. Wood  
Executive Director

Judge Bill Stoudt, Longview, Chair  
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"The Commission on Jail Standards welcomes all suggestions and will promptly respond to all complaints directed against the agency or any facilities under its purview".  
*To empower local government to provide safe, secure and suitable local jail facilities through proper rules and procedures while promoting innovative programs and ideas*