



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
August 31, 2022

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Texas Center for Justice and Equity Releases 2023 Bill Analysis Guide While Acknowledging Need for Deeper Gains

In-Depth Guide to Justice-Oriented Legislation Published as New Texas Laws Go into Effect

(AUSTIN, TX) – Today, the Texas Center for Justice and Equity (TCJE) released a guide to around 40 bills that passed into law during the 2023 session of the Texas Legislature. The majority of the new laws go into effect on Friday, September 1. These bills span youth and adult justice—including court processes and defense, probation and treatment options, incarceration and conditions of confinement, parole and reentry, and other relevant issues.

The goal of the Bill Analysis Guide is to make this new justice-related legislation as accessible as possible, particularly for the system-impacted communities the organization serves. The guide is available both as a [PDF](#) and as a [series of webpages](#).

With the release of the guide, TCJE shared its goals for transparency:

“Too often, the lawmaking process—and state laws themselves—are opaque for the residents whose lives they affect. With our 2023 Bill Analysis Guide, we’re proud to continue working to make these critical processes and policies as clear as possible for anyone who wants to learn about them.”

TCJE also emphasized that new justice legislation fails to meet community demands for meaningful wellness and safety, and that collective advocacy must continue:

“While the bills we’ve highlighted have the potential to make a positive impact in the lives of system-involved Texans, they fall short of the transformative changes we champion. We will continue pushing—both in and out of the State Capitol, and alongside our important community partners—to keep people out of the criminal punishment system altogether, and to invest funding in approaches that support individual and community wellbeing.”

Links to all of the organization’s post-session content can be found below:

- [2023 Bill Analysis Guide \[PDF\]](#)
- [2023 Bill Analysis Guide \[webpages\]](#)
- [2023 Bills That Are Still Moving or Have Become Law \[blog post\]](#)
- [2023 Justice Progress \[webpage\]](#)

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The Texas Center for Justice and Equity (formerly the Texas Criminal Justice Coalition) advances solutions and builds coalitions to end mass incarceration and foster safer Texas communities.