

HB 3272 -- VISITORS TO COUNTY OR MUNICIPAL DETENTION FACILITIES

SPONSOR: Thomas

This bill requires that, except as described below, no person can be permitted to enter any county or municipal jail, detention center, or holding facility except by special permission of the sheriff, chief of police, jail administrator, or other chief administrative officer of the facility, or under such regulations created by these individuals.

The following people will be authorized to visit any such facility at any reasonable time, subject to necessary security and safety rules:

(1) The Governor, Lieutenant Governor, members of the General Assembly, judges of the Supreme Court, Courts of Appeal, and Circuit Courts, Attorney General, Auditor, Treasurer, and Secretary of State;

(2) Members of any county commission or township board within the county, county judges, county prosecutors, and sheriffs;

(3) Mayors, city council members, aldermen, municipal judges, and city attorneys of any city that operates or contracts for the operation of a jail or detention facility within the jurisdiction; and

(4) Duly authorized employees, assistants, or agents of the offices above, as specified in the bill.

The bill requires that all clergy or religious leaders of any recognized faith or denomination have access to such facilities and that they may visit any person confined therein, subject to such rules as are necessary to maintain order and security. Such clergy can administer the rites, sacraments, or ceremonies of their faith to any person confined in the facility upon request, in accordance with the facility's rules

Nothing in this bill limits the authority of any facility to regulate visitation for the purpose of maintaining the safety, security, and good order of the institution or to deny access to any individual for cause.

This bill is similar to HB 3270 (2026).