

AN ACT

relating to the release to mandatory supervision of certain inmates confined in a county jail.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 508, Government Code, is amended by adding Section 508.1471 to read as follows:

Sec. 508.1471. RELEASE TO MANDATORY SUPERVISION OF CERTAIN INMATES CONFINED IN COUNTY JAIL. (a) This section applies only to an inmate who, at the time the inmate is sentenced to a term of imprisonment in the department, is:

(1) confined in a county jail; and

(2) eligible for immediate release to mandatory supervision.

(b) Before an inmate is released from a county jail to mandatory supervision, the department shall provide notice to a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim that the inmate is eligible for release to mandatory supervision. The notice must be sent to the address provided in the victim impact statement or submitted under Section 508.117(b) and must state that the victim, guardian, or close relative may submit, not later than the 14th day after the date of the notice, a written statement to the parole panel considering the inmate's release regarding:

(1) the offense;

(2) the inmate; and

1           (3) the effect of the offense on the victim, guardian,  
2 or close relative.

3           (c) Notwithstanding any other law, the parole panel may  
4 interview a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a  
5 deceased victim regarding the release of the inmate to mandatory  
6 supervision.

7           (d) In this section, "victim," "guardian of a victim," and  
8 "close relative of a deceased victim" have the meanings assigned by  
9 Section 508.117.

10           SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
11 defendant who is sentenced for an offense on or after the effective  
12 date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense is committed  
13 before, on, or after that date.

14           SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 721 was passed by the House on April 30, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 135, Nays 6, 2 present, not voting; and that the House concurred in Senate amendments to H.B. No. 721 on May 28, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 147, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 721 was passed by the Senate, with amendments, on May 25, 2021, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: \_\_\_\_\_

Date

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Governor