

By: Wilson

H.B. No. 721

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

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) Notwithstanding any other law, the department must take custody of an inmate to whom this section applies before the inmate may be released to mandatory supervision.

(c) As soon as practicable after taking an inmate into custody under Subsection (b), 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

1 statement to the parole panel considering the inmate's release
2 regarding:

3 (1) the offense;

4 (2) the inmate; and

5 (3) the effect of the offense on the victim, guardian,
6 or close relative.

7 (d) Notwithstanding any other law, the parole panel may
8 interview a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
9 deceased victim regarding the release of the inmate to mandatory
10 supervision.

11 (e) In this section, "victim," "guardian of a victim," and
12 "close relative of a deceased victim" have the meanings assigned by
13 Section 508.117.

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

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