

By: Sherman, Sr.

H.B. No. 3527

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to improve community supervision outcomes.

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

SECTION 1. Section 509.003, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(e) The division shall allow departments to implement reporting intervals for defendants directly supervised by the departments that are determined by risk, with higher-risk defendants reporting at more frequent intervals than lower-risk defendants. A reporting interval for a low-risk defendant may not exceed 12 months.

(f) The division shall prepare and make available guidance documents to assist departments and judges in determining best practices for the use of progressive sanctions.

(g) The division shall implement an online technical assistance library that includes online training for purposes of improving the rate of successful completion of community supervision for all departments and judges in this state.

SECTION 2. Section 509.011, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1) The division may not reduce the amount of funding payable to a department under Subsection (a) based on the reporting interval of a defendant supervised by the department.

SECTION 3. Section 509.013, Government Code, is amended by

1 adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

2 (c) In awarding a grant under a grant program, the division
3 shall give priority to departments that:

4 (1) provide or receive training or technical
5 assistance under the program implemented under Section 509.020; or

6 (2) implement innovative or cost-effective methods
7 under that program.

8 (d) The division may provide grants to departments for the
9 purpose of employing certified peer support specialists, certified
10 recovery coaches, and certified reentry support specialists to
11 provide peer-to-peer support for defendants on community
12 supervision and to assist those defendants in successfully
13 completing the period of community supervision.

14 SECTION 4. Chapter 509, Government Code, is amended by
15 adding Sections 509.019 and 509.020 to read as follows:

16 Sec. 509.019. ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION
17 OUTCOMES. (a) Not later than April 1 of each year, the division
18 shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the
19 speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the
20 legislature, each department, and each district court, office of an
21 attorney representing the state, and public defender's office in
22 this state. The report must include:

23 (1) community supervision outcomes for the preceding
24 calendar year for each department, county, district court, and
25 constitutional or statutory county court with criminal
26 jurisdiction, including:

27 (A) the revocation rate of defendants placed on

1 community supervision;

2 (B) the proportion of terminations of the period
3 of community supervision that resulted in:

4 (i) the defendant receiving a discharge
5 following successful completion of community supervision;

6 (ii) the defendant receiving a discharge
7 following an early termination of community supervision under
8 Article 42A.111 or 42A.701, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

9 (iii) the revocation of community
10 supervision; and

11 (C) the number of:

12 (i) revocations of community supervision
13 that resulted from a plea bargain agreement;

14 (ii) revocations of community supervision
15 in cases in which the department supervising the defendant had
16 recommended the continuation of community supervision;

17 (iii) motions to adjudicate or revoke
18 community supervision that did not result in an adjudication of
19 guilt or the revocation of community supervision; and

20 (iv) motions to adjudicate or revoke
21 community supervision that resulted in the defendant being ordered
22 to complete a treatment program in lieu of an adjudication of guilt
23 or revocation of community supervision;

24 (2) a comparison of the outcomes described by
25 Subdivision (1) to:

26 (A) the statewide data for the outcomes; and

27 (B) if applicable, the outcomes of comparable

1 courts that have a rate of successful completion of community
2 supervision that is above the statewide average; and

3 (3) a detailed summary of the division's efforts to
4 reduce the revocation rate of defendants placed on community
5 supervision.

6 (b) The division shall make the report available on the
7 division's Internet website.

8 Sec. 509.020. PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING RATE OF SUCCESSFUL
9 COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION. The division shall implement
10 a program in which departments with a rate of successful completion
11 of community supervision that is above the statewide average
12 provide training and technical assistance to other departments for
13 the purpose of improving the successful completion rate of those
14 departments or implementing innovative or cost-effective methods
15 in those departments.

16 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.