

By: Alonzo

H.B. No. 1263

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the right of a foreign national to contact a foreign  
3 consular official.

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

5 SECTION 1. Article 15.17, Code of Criminal Procedure, is  
6 amended by adding Subsection (h) to read as follows:

7 (h)(1) If a magistrate knows or suspects that a person  
8 brought before the magistrate after an arrest is a foreign  
9 national, the magistrate shall inform the person that after an  
10 arrest a foreign national has a right to communicate with an  
11 official from the consulate of the person's country. If the person  
12 chooses to exercise the right to communicate with the consular  
13 official, the magistrate shall notify an official of the penal  
14 institution in which the person is confined that the person wants a  
15 foreign consular official to be notified. The official of the penal  
16 institution shall allow the person to communicate with, correspond  
17 with, and be visited by a consular official of the person's country.

18 (2) In providing a foreign national with rights  
19 described by Subdivision (1), the magistrate and official of the  
20 penal institution shall comply with policies and procedures adopted  
21 by the United States Department of State that apply to the  
22 notification of foreign consular officials on the arrest of foreign  
23 nationals.

24 SECTION 2. Section 1701.253, Occupations Code, is amended

1 by adding Subsection (i) to read as follows:

2 (i) As part of the minimum curriculum requirements, the  
3 commission shall establish a statewide comprehensive education and  
4 training program on the requirements for handling the arrest and  
5 detention of a foreign national as provided by Article 15.17(h),  
6 Code of Criminal Procedure.

7 SECTION 3. (a) The Commission on Law Enforcement Officer  
8 Standards and Education shall establish the curriculum for a  
9 comprehensive education and training program for peace officers as  
10 required by Section 1701.253(i), Occupations Code, as added by this  
11 Act, on or before January 1, 2004.

12 (b) For persons who are licensed peace officers on September  
13 1, 2003, the first course required under Section 1701.253(i),  
14 Occupations Code, as added by this Act, must be completed before  
15 September 1, 2005.

16 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2003.