

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2896

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the operation of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 508.051, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 508.051. SUNSET PROVISION. The Board of Pardons and Paroles is subject to review under Chapter 325 (Texas Sunset Act), but is not abolished under that chapter. The board shall be reviewed during the period in which agencies are reviewed in anticipation of legislative action by the 80th Legislature, Regular Session, 2007 [~~the Texas Department of Criminal Justice is reviewed~~].

SECTION 2. Section 508.141(c), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(c) Before releasing an inmate on parole, a parole panel shall interview the inmate and may have the inmate appear in person before the panel [~~and interview the inmate~~].

SECTION 3. Section 508.223, Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 508.223. PSYCHOLOGICAL COUNSELING. A parole panel shall [~~may~~] require as a condition of parole or mandatory supervision that a releasee serving a sentence for an offense under Section 42.072, Penal Code, attend psychological counseling sessions of a type and for a duration as specified by the parole

1 panel, if the parole panel determines in consultation with a local  
2 mental health services provider that appropriate mental health  
3 services are available through the Texas Department of Mental  
4 Health and Mental Retardation in accordance with Section 534.053,  
5 Health and Safety Code, or through another mental health services  
6 provider.

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