

AN ACT

relating to the sentencing hearing or deferred adjudication hearing and conditions of community supervision for defendants convicted of certain offenses involving controlled substances.

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

SECTION 1. Chapter 42, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 42.025 to read as follows:

Art. 42.025. SENTENCING HEARING AT SECONDARY SCHOOL. (a) A judge may order the sentencing hearing of a defendant convicted of an offense involving possession, manufacture, or delivery of a controlled substance under Chapter 481, Health and Safety Code, to be held at a secondary school if:

(1) the judge determines that the sentencing hearing would have educational value to students due to the nature of the offense and its consequences;

(2) the defendant agrees;

(3) the school administration agrees; and

(4) appropriate measures are taken to ensure:

(A) the safety of the students; and

(B) a fair hearing for the defendant that complies with all applicable laws and rules.

(b) A judge may, at a secondary school, receive a plea of guilty or nolo contendere from a defendant charged with an offense described by Subsection (a) and place the defendant on deferred

1 adjudication under Section 5, Article 42.12, if:

2 (1) the judge makes the determination that the  
3 proceeding would have educational value, as provided by Subsection  
4 (a)(1);

5 (2) the defendant and the school agree to the location  
6 of the proceeding, as provided by Subsections (a)(2) and (3); and

7 (3) appropriate measures are taken in regard to the  
8 safety of students and the rights of the defendant, as described by  
9 Subsection (a)(4).

10 SECTION 2. Section 16, Article 42.12, Code of Criminal  
11 Procedure, is amended by adding Subsection (g) to read as follows:

12 (g) If the judge orders a defendant placed on community  
13 supervision for an offense involving possession, manufacture, or  
14 delivery of a controlled substance under Chapter 481, Health and  
15 Safety Code, to perform community service, the judge may authorize  
16 the defendant to perform not more than 30 hours of community  
17 outreach under this subsection in lieu of hours of community  
18 service. Community outreach under this subsection consists of  
19 working in conjunction with a secondary school at the direction of  
20 the judge to educate students on the dangers and legal consequences  
21 of possessing, manufacturing, or delivering controlled substances.  
22 A secondary school is not required to allow a defendant to perform  
23 community outreach at that school. The judge may not authorize the  
24 defendant to perform hours of community outreach under this  
25 subsection in lieu of hours of community service if:

26 (1) the defendant is physically or mentally incapable  
27 of participating in community outreach; or

1           (2) the defendant is subject to registration as a sex  
2 offender under Chapter 62.

3           SECTION 3. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
4 defendant charged with an offense involving possession,  
5 manufacture, or delivery of a controlled substance under Chapter  
6 481, Health and Safety Code, who is sentenced or enters a plea of  
7 guilty or nolo contendere under Section 5, Article 42.12, Code of  
8 Criminal Procedure, on or after the effective date of this Act.

9           SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2011.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1113 was passed by the House on May 3, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 143, Nays 1, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 1113 was passed by the Senate on May 25, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

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

Date

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Governor