

By: Gutierrez

H.B. No. 2097

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a parole panel conducting certain revocation hearings  
by videoconference.

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

SECTION 1. Section 508.281, Government Code, is amended by  
amending Subsection (c) and adding Subsection (e) to read as  
follows:

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (e), if [~~If~~] a hearing  
before a designated agent of the board is held under this section  
for a releasee who appears in compliance with a summons, the sheriff  
of the county in which the releasee is required to appear shall  
provide the designated agent with a place at the county jail to hold  
the hearing. Immediately on conclusion of a hearing in which the  
designated agent determines that a releasee has violated a  
condition of release, a warrant may be issued requiring the  
releasee to be held in the county jail pending:

(1) the action of a parole panel on any  
recommendations made by the designated agent; and

(2) if subsequently ordered by the parole panel, the  
return of the releasee to the institution from which the releasee  
was released.

(e) On the timely request by the releasee and the sheriff of  
the county in which the releasee is being held that a hearing under  
this section be conducted by videoconference, a parole panel or

1 designated agent of the board shall conduct the hearing by  
2 videoconference. The board, after consultation with the Commission  
3 on Jail Standards, shall adopt rules as necessary to implement this  
4 subsection.

5 SECTION 2. Section 508.282, Government Code, is amended by  
6 adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

7 (b-1) Subsection (b)(2) does not apply in a case in which a  
8 hearing conducted by videoconference has been timely requested as  
9 provided by Section 508.281(e).

10 SECTION 3. The Board of Pardons and Paroles, after  
11 consultation with the Commission on Jail Standards, shall adopt  
12 rules related to conducting certain hearings by videoconference, as  
13 required by Section 508.281(e), Government Code, as added by this  
14 Act, not later than December 31, 2013.

15 SECTION 4. The change in law made by this Act applies only  
16 to:

17 (1) a releasee who is accused on or after January 1,  
18 2014, of a violation of release; and

19 (2) a person who is released although ineligible for  
20 release from the Texas Department of Criminal Justice and who is  
21 arrested on or after January 1, 2014.

22 SECTION 5. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives  
23 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as  
24 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this  
25 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this  
26 Act takes effect September 1, 2013.