

By: Farias, Guillen

H.B. No. 3729

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to inclusion of family members of veterans court program
3 participants in the treatment and services provided to the
4 participants under the program.

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

6 SECTION 1. Section 124.001(a), Government Code, is amended
7 to read as follows:

8 (a) In this chapter, "veterans court program" means a
9 program that has the following essential characteristics:

10 (1) the integration of services in the processing of
11 cases in the judicial system;

12 (2) the use of a nonadversarial approach involving
13 prosecutors and defense attorneys to promote public safety and to
14 protect the due process rights of program participants;

15 (3) early identification and prompt placement of
16 eligible participants in the program;

17 (4) access to a continuum of alcohol, controlled
18 substance, mental health, and other related treatment and
19 rehabilitative services;

20 (5) careful monitoring of treatment and services
21 provided to program participants;

22 (6) a coordinated strategy to govern program responses
23 to participants' compliance;

24 (7) ongoing judicial interaction with program

1 participants;

2 (8) monitoring and evaluation of program goals and
3 effectiveness;

4 (9) continuing interdisciplinary education to promote
5 effective program planning, implementation, and operations; ~~and~~

6 (10) development of partnerships with public agencies
7 and community organizations, including the United States
8 Department of Veterans Affairs; and

9 (11) inclusion of a participant's family members who
10 agree to be involved in the treatment and services provided to the
11 participant under the program.

12 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
13 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
14 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
15 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
16 Act takes effect September 1, 2015.