

AN ACT

relating to inclusion of family members of veterans court program participants in the treatment and services provided to the participants under the program.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(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.

President of the Senate

Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3729 was passed by the House on April 30, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 137, Nays 2, 1 present, not voting.

Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3729 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2015, by the following vote: Yeas 31, Nays 0.

Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED: _____

Date

Governor