

By: White

H.B. No. 562

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a committee formed to adopt a plan to deal with mental illness in the criminal justice system.

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

SECTION 1. Subtitle C, Title 7, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Chapter 580 to read as follows:

CHAPTER 580. LOCAL COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Sec. 580.001. DEFINITIONS. In this chapter:

(1) "Committee" means a local committee on mental health formed by a local mental health authority.

(2) "Department" means the Department of State Health Services.

(3) "Region" means the local service area for which a local mental health authority designated under Section 533.035 is responsible.

Sec. 580.002. LOCAL COMMITTEE ON MENTAL HEALTH. (a) Each local mental health authority shall form a local committee on mental health encompassing the authority's region.

(b) The committee shall develop and adopt a plan and submit the plan to the department not later than January 1, 2019.

Sec. 580.003. COMPOSITION OF COMMITTEE. The local mental health authority shall appoint the following members to the committee, if present in the region:

(1) a county judge or a county commissioner to serve as

1 committee chair;

2 (2) a representative from each sheriff's department;

3 (3) a representative from each district attorney's  
4 office;

5 (4) a representative from the Department of Family and  
6 Protective Services' child protection division;

7 (5) a representative from the Department of Family and  
8 Protective Services' adult protection division;

9 (6) a representative from each adult probation office;

10 (7) a representative from the local mental health  
11 authority;

12 (8) a criminal trial judge;

13 (9) an arraignment magistrate;

14 (10) a representative from a faith-based or nonprofit  
15 organization;

16 (11) a county veteran coordinator;

17 (12) a representative from a private hospital; and

18 (13) a representative from a public hospital.

19 Sec. 580.004. DEVELOPMENT OF PLAN. (a) The committee shall  
20 develop and adopt a plan identifying:

21 (1) the population of county jail inmates with mental  
22 illness;

23 (2) a measurable goal for reducing the population of  
24 county jail inmates with mental illness within two years;

25 (3) a method for improving indigent defense for  
26 persons with a mental illness who have been accused of a crime;

27 (4) a method for addressing mental illness among

1 veterans;

2 (5) a method for quickly identifying and diverting  
3 persons with mental illness from the criminal justice system; and

4 (6) a method for providing community supervision to  
5 reduce recidivism among criminogenic superutilizers of mental  
6 health resources.

7 (b) The committee must unanimously agree on the adopted  
8 plan.

9 Sec. 580.005. DISSOLUTION OF COMMITTEE. The committee  
10 shall dissolve after the committee submits its plan to the  
11 department.

12 Sec. 580.006. CONDITION TO RECEIVE CONTINUED STATE FUNDING  
13 FOR BEHAVIORAL HEALTH. The department may not distribute to a local  
14 mental health authority state funds for mental or behavioral health  
15 services for the fiscal biennium beginning September 1, 2019,  
16 unless the authority's committee has submitted to the department  
17 its plan on or before January 1, 2019.

18 Sec. 580.007. EXPIRATION. This chapter expires August 31,  
19 2021.

20 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2017.