By:  Metcalf, Ramos, Guillen H.B. No. 2481

     (Senate Sponsor - Creighton)

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 2, 2019; May 7, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 15, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 15, 2019, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Huffman         X

Buckingham      X

Flores          X

Hughes                    X

Miles           X

Perry           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the administration of a veterans treatment court program.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 124.003(b), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(b)  A veterans treatment court program established under this chapter shall make, establish, and publish local procedures to ensure maximum participation of eligible defendants in the program [~~county or counties in which those defendants reside~~].

SECTION 2.  Sections 124.006(a) and (d), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(a)  A veterans treatment court program that accepts placement of a defendant may transfer responsibility for supervising the defendant's participation in the program to another veterans treatment court program that is located in the county where the defendant works or resides or in a county adjacent to the county where the defendant works or resides. The defendant's supervision may be transferred under this section only with the consent of both veterans treatment court programs and the defendant.

(d)  If a defendant is charged with an offense in a county that does not operate a veterans treatment court program, the court in which the criminal case is pending may place the defendant in a veterans treatment court program located in the county where the defendant works or resides or in a county adjacent to the county where the defendant works or resides, provided that a program is operated in that county and the defendant agrees to the placement. A defendant placed in a veterans treatment court program in accordance with this subsection must agree to abide by all rules, requirements, and instructions of the program.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect immediately if it receives a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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