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By:  White, Ramos H.B. No. 2701

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to county jailer training and continuing education requirements regarding interacting with pregnant women confined in jail.

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

SECTION 1.  Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.269 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.269.  TRAINING PROGRAM RELATING TO COUNTY JAILER INTERACTIONS WITH PREGNANT WOMEN. The commission shall develop a training program for county jailers that consists of education and training concerning interacting with a pregnant woman confined in a county jail. The program must be based on obstetrical and gynecological best practices and include general information on:

(1)  pregnancy, labor, delivery, and recovery;

(2)  identifying when a woman is in labor;

(3)  appropriate prenatal and postnatal care and first aid techniques specific to pregnant women; and

(4)  factors that increase the risk of a miscarriage.

SECTION 2.  Section 1701.310(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a)  Except as provided by Subsection (e), a person may not be appointed as a county jailer, except on a temporary basis, unless the person has satisfactorily completed a preparatory training program, as required by the commission, in the operation of a county jail at a school operated or licensed by the commission. The training program must:

(1)  consist of at least eight hours of mental health training approved by the commission and the Commission on Jail Standards; and

(2)  include the training program developed under Section 1701.269.

SECTION 3.  Section 1701.352, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Subsection (b-1) to read as follows:

(b-1)  The commission shall require a county that appoints or employs a county jailer to provide each jailer with the training program developed under Section 1701.269 at least once every 48 months. The training must be provided by a medical professional.

SECTION 4.  Section 1701.310(a), Occupations Code, as amended by this Act, applies only to a person appointed as a county jailer on or after January 1, 2020. A person appointed as a county jailer before January 1, 2020, is governed by the law in effect immediately before the effective date of this Act, and the former law is continued in effect for that purpose.

SECTION 5.  As soon as practicable after the effective date of this Act, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall:

(1)  develop the training program required by Section 1701.269, Occupations Code, as added by this Act; and

(2)  adopt rules necessary to implement Section 1701.352(b-1), Occupations Code, as added by this Act.

SECTION 6.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.