H.B. No. 3540

AN ACT

relating to the authority of a peace officer to release in lieu of arrest certain persons with an intellectual or developmental disability.

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

SECTION 1.  Chapter 14, Code of Criminal Procedure, is amended by adding Article 14.035 to read as follows:

Art. 14.035.  AUTHORITY TO RELEASE IN LIEU OF ARREST CERTAIN PERSONS WITH INTELLECTUAL OR DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITY. (a) This article applies only to a person with an intellectual or developmental disability who resides at one of the following types of facilities operated under the home and community-based services waiver program in accordance with Section 1915(c) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. Section 1396n):

(1)  a group home; or

(2)  an intermediate care facility for persons with an intellectual or developmental disability (ICF/IID) as defined by 40 T.A.C. Section 9.153.

(b)  In lieu of arresting a person described by Subsection (a), a peace officer may release the person at the person's residence if the officer:

(1)  believes confinement of the person in a correctional facility as defined by Section 1.07, Penal Code, is unnecessary to protect the person and the other persons who reside at the residence; and

(2)  made reasonable efforts to consult with the staff at the person's residence and with the person regarding that decision.

(c)  A peace officer and the agency or political subdivision that employs the peace officer may not be held liable for damage to persons or property that results from the actions of a person released under Subsection (b).

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2019.

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    President of the Senate Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3540 was passed by the House on May 3, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 141, Nays 0, 2 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 3540 was passed by the Senate on May 22, 2019, by the following vote:  Yeas 31, Nays 0.

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Secretary of the Senate

APPROVED:  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

                    Date

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                  Governor