By:  Burns, Raymond, Collier H.B. No. 3540

     (Senate Sponsor - Hughes)

(In the Senate - Received from the House May 6, 2019; May 10, 2019, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 19, 2019, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 6, Nays 0; May 19, 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 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.

\* \* \* \* \*