

By: Price, Murr, Moody, Minjarez

H.B. No. 2955

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to oversight of specialty court programs.

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

SECTION 1. Section [121.002](#), Government Code, is amended by amending Subsections (c) and (d) and adding Subsections (f) and (g) to read as follows:

(c) Notwithstanding any other law, a specialty court program may not operate until the judge, magistrate, or coordinator:

(1) provides to the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System [~~criminal justice division of the governor's office~~]:

(A) written notice of the program;

(B) any resolution or other official declaration under which the program was established; and

(C) a copy of the applicable strategic plan that incorporates duties related to supervision that will be required under the program; and

(2) receives from the office [~~division~~] written verification of the program's compliance with Subdivision (1).

(d) A specialty court program shall:

(1) comply with all programmatic best practices recommended by the Specialty Courts Advisory Council under Section [772.0061](#)(b)(2) and approved by the Texas Judicial Council; and

1 (2) report to the criminal justice division of the
2 governor's office and the Texas Judicial Council any information
3 required by the division or council regarding the performance of
4 the program.

5 (f) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial
6 System shall:

7 (1) on request provide technical assistance to the
8 specialty court programs;

9 (2) coordinate with an entity funded by the criminal
10 justice division of the governor's office that provides services to
11 specialty court programs;

12 (3) monitor compliance of the specialty court programs
13 with the programmatic best practices as required by Subsection
14 (d)(1); and

15 (4) notify the criminal justice division about each
16 specialty court program that is not in compliance with the
17 programmatic best practices as required by Subsection (d)(1).

18 (g) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial
19 System shall coordinate with and provide information to the
20 criminal justice division of the governor's office on request of
21 the division.

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