

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.

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President of the Senate

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2955 was passed by the House on April 24, 2019, by the following vote: Yeas 148, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House

I certify that H.B. No. 2955 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