

By: Price

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; and

9                 (2) monitor the specialty court programs for  
10 compliance with programmatic best practices as required by  
11 Subsection (d).

12           (g) The Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial  
13 System shall coordinate with and provide information to the  
14 criminal justice division of the governor's office on request of  
15 the division.

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