

By: Collier

H.B. No. 313

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT
2 relating to the requirements for certification as a special officer
3 for offenders with mental impairments.

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

5 SECTION 1. Section 1701.404(b), Occupations Code, is
6 amended to read as follows:

7 (b) The commission may certify a sheriff, sheriff's deputy,
8 constable, other peace officer, county jailer, or justice of the
9 peace as a special officer for offenders with mental impairments if
10 the person:

11 (1) completes a training course in emergency first aid
12 and lifesaving techniques approved by the commission;

13 (2) completes a training course administered by the
14 commission on mental health issues and offenders with mental
15 impairments;

16 (3) completes the training program established under
17 Section 1701.264 on acquired and traumatic brain injuries;

18 (4) completes the training program established under
19 Section 1701.265 on veterans with combat-related trauma,
20 post-traumatic stress, post-traumatic stress disorder, or a
21 traumatic brain injury; and

22 (5) [~~3~~] passes an examination administered by the
23 commission that is designed to test the person's:

24 (A) knowledge and recognition of a person with

1 the characteristics and symptoms of mental illness or an
2 intellectual or developmental disability~~[, mental retardation, and~~
3 ~~mental disabilities]~~; and

4 (B) knowledge of mental health crisis
5 intervention strategies for people with mental impairments.

6 SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date
7 of this Act, the Texas Commission on Law Enforcement shall:

8 (1) adopt rules necessary to implement Sections
9 [1701.404](#)(b)(3) and (4), Occupations Code, as added by this Act; and

10 (2) modify as necessary the examination required under
11 Section [1701.404](#)(b)(5), Occupations Code, as amended by this Act.

12 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.