

By: Moody

H.B. No. 3835

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the establishment of regional assisted outpatient treatment programs to provide court-ordered outpatient mental health services in certain counties.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 574, Health and Safety Code, is amended by adding Sections 574.038 and 574.039 to read as follows:

Sec. 574.038. ESTABLISHMENT OF REGIONAL ASSISTED OUTPATIENT TREATMENT PROGRAMS. The commissioners courts of two or more counties may establish a regional assisted outpatient treatment program to provide court-ordered outpatient mental health services under this chapter in the participating counties.

Sec. 574.039. PROGRAM IN CERTAIN COUNTIES MANDATORY. (a) The commissioners court of a county with a population of more than 200,000 shall undertake to establish a program under this chapter and apply for federal and state funding to cover program costs. The criminal justice division of the governor's office may assist a county in applying for federal funding.

(b) A county is required to establish a program under this section only if the county receives federal or state funding specifically for that purpose in an amount sufficient to pay the program costs.

(c) A county that is required to establish a program under

1 this section and fails to establish or to maintain that program is
2 ineligible to receive grant funding from this state or any state
3 agency.

4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect immediately if it receives
5 a vote of two-thirds of all the members elected to each house, as
6 provided by Section 39, Article III, Texas Constitution. If this
7 Act does not receive the vote necessary for immediate effect, this
8 Act takes effect September 1, 2021.