By:  Smith (Senate Sponsor - Hinojosa) H.B. No. 2741

(In the Senate - Received from the House April 24, 2023; May 4, 2023, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice; May 19, 2023, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0; May 19, 2023, sent to printer.)

COMMITTEE VOTE

               Yea Nay Absent  PNV

Whitmire        X

Flores          X

Bettencourt     X

Hinojosa        X

Huffman         X

King            X

Miles           X

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the duties and composition of the Specialty Courts Advisory Council.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 772.0061(a)(2), Government Code, is amended to read as follows:

(2)  "Specialty court" means:

(A)  a commercially sexually exploited persons court program established under Chapter 126 or former law;

(B)  a family drug court program established under Chapter 122 or former law;

(C)  a drug court program established under Chapter 123 or former law;

(D)  a veterans treatment court program established under Chapter 124 or former law;

(E)  a mental health court program established under Chapter 125 or former law; [~~and~~]

(F)  a public safety employees treatment court program established under Chapter 129; and

(G)  a juvenile family drug court program established under Chapter 130.

SECTION 2.  Sections 772.0061(b) and (c), Government Code, are amended to read as follows:

(b)  The governor shall establish the Specialty Courts Advisory Council within the criminal justice division established under Section 772.006 to:

(1)  evaluate applications for grant funding for specialty courts in this state and to make funding recommendations to the criminal justice division; and

(2)  make recommendations to the Texas Judicial Council, the Office of Court Administration of the Texas Judicial System, and the criminal justice division regarding best practices for specialty courts established under Chapter 122, 123, 124, 125, [~~or~~] 129, or 130, or former law.

(c)  The council is composed of nine members appointed by the governor as follows:

(1)  four members, each of whom has [~~one member with~~] experience as the judge of at least one [~~a~~] specialty court described by Subsection (a)(2) [~~(a)(2)(A)~~]; and

(2)  [~~one member with experience as the judge of a specialty court described by Subsection (a)(2)(B);~~

[~~(3)  one member with experience as the judge of a specialty court described by Subsection (a)(2)(C);~~

[~~(4)  one member with experience as the judge of a specialty court described by Subsection (a)(2)(D); and~~

[~~(5)~~]  five members who represent the public.

SECTION 3.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.

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