88R13693 MCF-F

By:  Sherman, Sr. H.B. No. 3527

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to measures to improve community supervision outcomes.

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

SECTION 1.  Section 509.003, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (e), (f), and (g) to read as follows:

(e)  The division shall allow departments to implement reporting intervals for defendants directly supervised by the departments that are determined by risk, with higher-risk defendants reporting at more frequent intervals than lower-risk defendants. A reporting interval for a low-risk defendant may not exceed 12 months.

(f)  The division shall prepare and make available guidance documents to assist departments and judges in determining best practices for the use of progressive sanctions.

(g)  The division shall implement an online technical assistance library that includes online training for purposes of improving the rate of successful completion of community supervision for all departments and judges in this state.

SECTION 2.  Section 509.011, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsection (a-1) to read as follows:

(a-1)  The division may not reduce the amount of funding payable to a department under Subsection (a) based on the reporting interval of a defendant supervised by the department.

SECTION 3.  Section 509.013, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (c) and (d) to read as follows:

(c)  In awarding a grant under a grant program, the division shall give priority to departments that:

(1)  provide or receive training or technical assistance under the program implemented under Section 509.020; or

(2)  implement innovative or cost-effective methods under that program.

(d)  The division may provide grants to departments for the purpose of employing certified peer support specialists, certified recovery coaches, and certified reentry support specialists to provide peer-to-peer support for defendants on community supervision and to assist those defendants in successfully completing the period of community supervision.

SECTION 4.  Chapter 509, Government Code, is amended by adding Sections 509.019 and 509.020 to read as follows:

Sec. 509.019.  ANNUAL REPORT ON COMMUNITY SUPERVISION OUTCOMES. (a) Not later than April 1 of each year, the division shall submit a report to the governor, the lieutenant governor, the speaker of the house of representatives, each member of the legislature, each department, and each district court, office of an attorney representing the state, and public defender's office in this state. The report must include:

(1)  community supervision outcomes for the preceding calendar year for each department, county, district court, and constitutional or statutory county court with criminal jurisdiction, including:

(A)  the revocation rate of defendants placed on community supervision;

(B)  the proportion of terminations of the period of community supervision that resulted in:

(i)  the defendant receiving a discharge following successful completion of community supervision;

(ii)  the defendant receiving a discharge following an early termination of community supervision under Article 42A.111 or 42A.701, Code of Criminal Procedure; or

(iii)  the revocation of community supervision; and

(C)  the number of:

(i)  revocations of community supervision that resulted from a plea bargain agreement;

(ii)  revocations of community supervision in cases in which the department supervising the defendant had recommended the continuation of community supervision;

(iii)  motions to adjudicate or revoke community supervision that did not result in an adjudication of guilt or the revocation of community supervision; and

(iv)  motions to adjudicate or revoke community supervision that resulted in the defendant being ordered to complete a treatment program in lieu of an adjudication of guilt or revocation of community supervision;

(2)  a comparison of the outcomes described by Subdivision (1) to:

(A)  the statewide data for the outcomes; and

(B)  if applicable, the outcomes of comparable courts that have a rate of successful completion of community supervision that is above the statewide average; and

(3)  a detailed summary of the division's efforts to reduce the revocation rate of defendants placed on community supervision.

(b)  The division shall make the report available on the division's Internet website.

Sec. 509.020.  PROGRAM FOR IMPROVING RATE OF SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF COMMUNITY SUPERVISION. The division shall implement a program in which departments with a rate of successful completion of community supervision that is above the statewide average provide training and technical assistance to other departments for the purpose of improving the successful completion rate of those departments or implementing innovative or cost-effective methods in those departments.

SECTION 5.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.