88R4694 MPF-F

By:  Perry S.B. No. 295

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the payment by the state or a county of costs for certain mental health hearings or proceedings.

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

SECTION 1.  Sections 571.018(h) and (j), Health and Safety Code, are amended to read as follows:

(h)  The state or a county may not pay any costs for a patient committed to a private mental hospital, other than a filing fee or other cost associated with a hearing or proceeding under this subtitle, unless:

(1)  a public facility is not available; and

(2)  the commissioners court of the county authorizes the payment, if appropriate.

(j)  The judge of a probate court shall order the clerk of the court to refund court costs paid or advanced for a person by [~~When~~] an inpatient mental health facility as defined under Section 571.003(9)(A), (B), (D), or (E) on the filing of [~~571.003(9)(B) or (E) files~~] an affidavit with the clerk of the court certifying that:

(1)  the facility has received no compensation or reimbursement for the treatment of the person;

(2)  the facility provided treatment for the person under a contract with a local mental health authority; or

(3)  the facility provided treatment for the person and the person is eligible for Medicaid benefits [~~it has received no compensation or reimbursement for the treatment of a person for whom court costs have been paid or advanced, the judge of the probate court shall order the clerk of the court to refund the costs~~].

SECTION 2.  This Act takes effect September 1, 2023.