

By: Allen

H.B. No. 2718

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to the composition of the Board of Pardons and Paroles.

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

SECTION 1. Section 508.031, Government Code, is amended by adding Subsections (a-1) and (c) and amending Subsection (b) to read as follows:

(a-1) The board must include at least:

(1) two members who have bachelor's degrees in behavioral mental health, each of whom is:

(A) a licensed clinical social worker, as defined by Section 505.002, Occupations Code;

(B) a licensed professional counselor, as defined by Section 503.002, Occupations Code; or

(C) a psychologist, as defined by Section 501.002, Occupations Code;

(2) one member whose parent, sibling, child, or grandparent has been incarcerated; and

(3) one but not more than three members who have bachelor's degrees in criminal justice or a related field and who are former employees of a law enforcement agency.

(b) Appointments to the board must be made without regard to the ~~[race, color]~~ disability, ~~[sex]~~ religion, or age~~[, or national origin]~~ of the appointed members.

(c) The composition of the board must reflect the ethnic

1 diversity of the inmate population of the department, and at least
2 half of the members of the board must be female.

3 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act does not
4 affect the entitlement of a member serving on the Board of Pardons
5 and Paroles immediately before the effective date of this Act to
6 continue to serve for the remainder of the member's term. As the
7 terms of members expire, the governor shall appoint or reappoint
8 members who have the qualifications required by Section [508.031](#),
9 Government Code, as amended by this Act.

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