

By: Price

H.B. No. 4467

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

1  
2 relating to the establishment or expansion of behavioral health  
3 centers or jail diversion centers in certain local mental health  
4 authority service areas.

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

6 SECTION 1. Subchapter B, Chapter 531, Government Code, is  
7 amended by adding Section 531.09936 to read as follows:

8 Sec. 531.09936. ESTABLISHMENT OR EXPANSION OF REGIONAL  
9 BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CENTERS OR JAIL DIVERSION CENTERS. (a) In this  
10 section:

11 (1) "Local mental health authority" has the meaning  
12 assigned by Section 531.002, Health and Safety Code.

13 (2) "Nonprofit organization" means an organization  
14 that is exempt from federal income taxation under Section 501(a),  
15 Internal Revenue Code of 1986, by being listed as an exempt entity  
16 under Section 501(c)(3) of that code.

17 (b) To the extent money is appropriated to the commission  
18 for that purpose, the commission, in cooperation with local mental  
19 health authorities located primarily in rural areas of this state,  
20 shall contract with nonprofit organizations to establish or expand  
21 behavioral health centers or jail diversion centers in the  
22 authorities' local service areas to:

23 (1) provide additional forensic hospital beds and  
24 competency restoration services;

1           (2) provide inpatient and outpatient mental health  
2 services to adults and children; and

3           (3) provide services to reduce recidivism and the  
4 frequency of arrest, incarceration, and emergency detentions among  
5 persons with mental illness in the service areas.

6           (c) The executive commissioner shall develop criteria for  
7 the evaluation of applications or proposals submitted by a  
8 nonprofit organization seeking to contract with the commission  
9 under this section.

10           SECTION 2. As soon as practicable after the effective date  
11 of this Act, the executive commissioner of the Health and Human  
12 Services Commission shall adopt rules necessary to implement  
13 Section 531.09936, Government Code, as added by this Act.

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