

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMPILATION OF PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Submitted to the Committee on Judiciary & Civil Jurisprudence
For HB 2741

Compiled on: Sunday, March 26, 2023 3:26 PM

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Hearing Date: March 22, 2023 8:00 AM

Paul White, Sr. Judge, retired/Director, Texas Association of Specialty Courts
Director and Legislative Chair of Texas Association of Specialty Courts
Lufkin, TX

For more than three decades, Drug Courts have been recognized in America as the most effective restorative and rehabilitative model in criminal justice that has consequently led to the creation of specialty courts for many other categories of offenders. In view of such expansion, the Legislature established a Specialty Courts Advisory Council in Section 772.0061 of the Government Code that identifies the type of specialty courts that have been established that are treatment courts as found in Title 2 - Judicial Branch, Subtitle K; evaluates applications for grant funding to the Criminal Justice Division of the Office of the Governor; and makes recommendations regarding best practices for specialty courts to governmental entities with oversight responsibilities.

HB 2741 amends Section 772.0061(a)(2), Government Code by:

- 1) identifying another type of specialty court, a Juvenile Family Drug Court Program pursuant to Ch. 130. JUVENILE FAMILY DRUG COURT PROGRAM.
- 2) inclusion of the Texas Judicial Council and the Office of Court Administration to receive recommendations of best practices due to legislative responsibility given to OCA regarding specialty courts; and
- 3) inclusion of all categories of specialty court Judges that the governor may designate as a council member rather than merely the four courts identified by the statute.

The Texas Association of Specialty Courts supports HB 2741 as necessary to fulfil the intended purposes of the Specialty Court Advisory Council and respectfully requests approval by the members of this honorable Committee.