

By: Plesa

H.B. No. 1597

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to county jailer training on interacting with veterans in the criminal justice system.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter F, Chapter 1701, Occupations Code, is amended by adding Section 1701.273 to read as follows:

Sec. 1701.273. TRAINING PROGRAM RELATING TO COUNTY JAILER INTERACTIONS WITH VETERANS. The commission shall, in consultation with the Texas Veterans Commission, develop a training program for county jailers on interacting with veterans in the criminal justice system.

SECTION 2. Section 1701.310(a), Occupations Code, is amended to read as follows:

(a) Except as provided by Subsection (e), a person may not be appointed as a county jailer, except on a temporary basis, unless the person has satisfactorily completed a preparatory training program, as required by the commission, in the operation of a county jail at a school operated or licensed by the commission. The training program must:

(1) consist of at least eight hours of mental health training approved by the commission and the Commission on Jail Standards; and

(2) include the training program developed under Section 1701.273.

1 SECTION 3. (a) The change in law made by this Act applies to
2 a county jailer licensed under Chapter 1701, Occupations Code,
3 regardless of whether the license was issued before, on, or after
4 the effective date of this Act.

5 (b) A county jailer who, on the effective date of this Act,
6 holds a county jailer license shall complete the training program
7 described by Section 1701.273, Occupations Code, as added by this
8 Act, not later than August 31, 2027.

9 SECTION 4. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.