

By: DeAyala

H.B. No. 3488

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to representation for an indigent person subject to a civil commitment proceeding.

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

SECTION 1. Section 841.005, Health and Safety Code, is amended to read as follows:

Sec. 841.005. TEXAS BOARD OF CRIMINAL JUSTICE [~~OFFICE OF STATE COUNSEL FOR OFFENDERS~~]. (a) In this section, "board" means the Texas Board of Criminal Justice.

(b) Except as provided by Subsection (c) [~~(b)~~], the board [~~Office of State Counsel for Offenders~~] shall provide representation for [~~represent~~] an indigent person subject to a civil commitment proceeding under this chapter.

(c) [~~(b)~~] If for any reason the board [~~Office of State Counsel for Offenders~~] is unable to provide representation for [~~represent~~] an indigent person described by Subsection (b) [~~(a)~~] at a civil commitment proceeding under this chapter, the court shall appoint other counsel to represent the indigent person.

SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.