

By: Phelan

H.B. No. 4768

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to conditions of community supervision for defendants convicted of certain criminal offenses involving animals.

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

SECTION 1. Articles 42A.511(a) and (b), Code of Criminal Procedure, are amended to read as follows:

(a) If a judge grants community supervision to a defendant convicted of an offense under Section 42.09, 42.091, 42.092, or 42.10, Penal Code, the judge may require the defendant to:

(1) complete an online responsible pet owner course that is at least two hours in duration ~~[approved and certified by the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation]~~; or

(2) complete ~~[attend]~~ a responsible pet owner course sponsored by a municipal animal shelter, as defined by Section 823.001, Health and Safety Code, that:

(A) receives federal, state, county, or municipal funds; and

(B) serves the county in which the court is located.

(b) An ~~[For purposes of the]~~ online responsible pet owner course described by Subsection (a)(1) must include information regarding ~~[, the Texas Department of Licensing and Regulation or the Texas Commission of Licensing and Regulation, as appropriate]~~:

(1) federal and state laws that protect livestock

animals, nonlivestock animals, and wildlife, including:

(A) animal cruelty laws;

(B) dogfighting laws; and

(C) laws prohibiting attacks on assistance  
animals;

(2) responsible care for animals, including spaying,  
neutering, and tethering animals, and generally providing for the  
health, safety, and welfare of livestock animals, nonlivestock  
animals, and wildlife;

(3) animal bite prevention; and

(4) laws governing dog and cat breeders under Chapter  
802, Occupations Code [is responsible for the approval,  
certification, and administration of the course and course  
providers;

~~[(2) may charge fees for:~~

~~[(A) initial and renewal course certifications;~~

~~[(B) initial and renewal course provider  
certifications;~~

~~[(C) course participant completion certificates;  
and~~

~~[(D) other fees necessary for the administration  
of the course and course providers;~~

~~[(3) shall adopt rules regarding the administration of  
the course and course providers, including rules regarding:~~

~~[(A) the criteria for course approval and  
certification;~~

~~[(B) the criteria for course provider approval~~

1 ~~and certification;~~

2 ~~[(C) curriculum development;~~

3 ~~[(D) course length and content;~~

4 ~~[(E) criteria for a participant to complete the~~  
5 ~~course; and~~

6 ~~[(F) a course completion certificate that is~~  
7 ~~acceptable to a court;~~

8 ~~[(4) is authorized to monitor and audit the provision~~  
9 ~~of the course by the course providers; and~~

10 ~~[(5) may take enforcement actions as appropriate to~~  
11 ~~enforce this subsection].~~

12 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a  
13 defendant placed on community supervision on or after the effective  
14 date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense for which the  
15 defendant was placed on community supervision was committed before,  
16 on, or after the effective date of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.