

By: Phelan

H.B. No. 4768

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

1 AN ACT

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

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

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

7 (a) If a judge grants community supervision to a defendant
8 convicted of an offense under Section [42.09](#), [42.091](#), [42.092](#), or
9 [42.10](#), Penal Code, the judge may require the defendant to:

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

13 (2) complete [attend] a responsible pet owner course
14 sponsored by a municipal animal shelter, as defined by Section
15 823.001, Health and Safety Code, that:

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

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

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

24 (1) federal and state laws that protect livestock

1 animals, nonlivestock animals, and wildlife, including:

2 (A) animal cruelty laws;

3 (B) dogfighting laws; and

4 (C) laws prohibiting attacks on assistance

5 animals;

6 (2) responsible care for animals, including spaying,

7 neutering, and tethering animals, and generally providing for the

8 health, safety, and welfare of livestock animals, nonlivestock

9 animals, and wildlife;

10 (3) animal bite prevention; and

11 (4) laws governing dog and cat breeders under Chapter

12 802, Occupations Code [is responsible for the approval,

13 certification, and administration of the course and course

14 providers,

15 [+2) may charge fees for:

16 [(A) initial and renewal course certifications;

17 [(B) initial and renewal course provider

18 certifications;

19 [(C) course participant completion certificates,

20 and

21 [(D) other fees necessary for the administration

22 of the course and course providers;

23 [(+3) shall adopt rules regarding the administration of

24 the course and course providers, including rules regarding:

25 [(A) the criteria for course approval and

26 certification,

27 [(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.