

By: Zaffirini
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S.B. No. 1574

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED

AN ACT

relating to a centers of excellence program developed by the Texas
Judicial Council for certain justices and judges.

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

SECTION 1. Subchapter C, Chapter 71, Government Code, is
amended by adding Section 71.040 to read as follows:

Sec. 71.040. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE. (a) The council by
rule shall develop a centers of excellence program to identify,
support, and recognize justices and judges who excel in serving
their communities and in representing the judiciary. In awarding a
center of excellence recognition to a justice or judge, the council
must consider:

(1) a justice's or judge's governance, access,
fairness, case flow management, and court operations; and

(2) the compliance of the justice's or judge's court
with statutory or procedural requirements for judicial reporting,
court security, fee collection, indigent defense, and guardianship
fraud and abuse prevention.

(b) A justice or judge of an appellate court, district
court, statutory county court, county court, justice court, or
municipal court is eligible for recognition as a center of
excellence and may apply for recognition on a form and in the manner
prescribed by the council.

SECTION 2. The changes in law made by this Act apply only to

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1 a justice or judge recognized under a centers of excellence program
2 developed by the Texas Judicial Council on or after the effective
3 date of this Act.

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