

1-1 By: Wilson (Senate Sponsor - Schwertner) H.B. No. 721
1-2 (In the Senate - Received from the House May 3, 2021;
1-3 May 10, 2021, read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal
1-4 Justice; May 24, 2021, reported adversely, with favorable
1-5 Committee Substitute by the following vote: Yeas 7, Nays 0;
1-6 May 24, 2021, sent to printer.)

1-7 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-8				
1-9	X			
1-10	X			
1-11	X			
1-12	X			
1-13	X			
1-14	X			
1-15	X			

1-16 COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR H.B. No. 721 By: Whitmire

1-17 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-18 AN ACT

1-19 relating to the release to mandatory supervision of certain inmates
1-20 confined in a county jail.

1-21 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-22 SECTION 1. Subchapter E, Chapter 508, Government Code, is
1-23 amended by adding Section 508.1471 to read as follows:

1-24 Sec. 508.1471. RELEASE TO MANDATORY SUPERVISION OF CERTAIN
1-25 INMATES CONFINED IN COUNTY JAIL. (a) This section applies only to
1-26 an inmate who, at the time the inmate is sentenced to a term of
1-27 imprisonment in the department, is:

1-28 (1) confined in a county jail; and

1-29 (2) eligible for immediate release to mandatory
1-30 supervision.

1-31 (b) Before an inmate is released from a county jail to
1-32 mandatory supervision, the department shall provide notice to a
1-33 victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a deceased victim
1-34 that the inmate is eligible for release to mandatory supervision.
1-35 The notice must be sent to the address provided in the victim impact
1-36 statement or submitted under Section 508.117(b) and must state that
1-37 the victim, guardian, or close relative may submit, not later than
1-38 the 14th day after the date of the notice, a written statement to
1-39 the parole panel considering the inmate's release regarding:

1-40 (1) the offense;

1-41 (2) the inmate; and

1-42 (3) the effect of the offense on the victim, guardian,
1-43 or close relative.

1-44 (c) Notwithstanding any other law, the parole panel may
1-45 interview a victim, guardian of a victim, or close relative of a
1-46 deceased victim regarding the release of the inmate to mandatory
1-47 supervision.

1-48 (d) In this section, "victim," "guardian of a victim," and
1-49 "close relative of a deceased victim" have the meanings assigned by
1-50 Section 508.117.

1-51 SECTION 2. The change in law made by this Act applies to a
1-52 defendant who is sentenced for an offense on or after the effective
1-53 date of this Act, regardless of whether the offense is committed
1-54 before, on, or after that date.

1-55 SECTION 3. This Act takes effect September 1, 2021.

1-56 * * * * *