

1-1 By: Bettencourt S.B. No. 1437
1-2 (In the Senate - Filed February 19, 2025; March 6, 2025,
1-3 read first time and referred to Committee on Criminal Justice;
1-4 April 3, 2025, reported favorably by the following vote: Yeas 7,
1-5 Nays 0; April 3, 2025, sent to printer.)

1-6 COMMITTEE VOTE

	Yea	Nay	Absent	PNV
1-7				
1-8	Flores	X		
1-9	Parker	X		
1-10	Hagenbuch	X		
1-11	Hinojosa of Hidalgo	X		
1-12	Huffman	X		
1-13	King	X		
1-14	Miles	X		

1-15 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
1-16 AN ACT

1-17 relating to the eligibility of certain individuals for
1-18 certification as certain juvenile officers or employees of a
1-19 juvenile facility.

1-20 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF TEXAS:

1-21 SECTION 1. Section 222.054, Human Resources Code, is
1-22 amended by adding Subsection (a-1) and amending Subsections (b),
1-23 (c), and (d) to read as follows:

1-24 (a-1) This section applies to an individual, regardless of
1-25 whether the individual holds a certification under this chapter,
1-26 who is or was employed by, under contract with, or volunteering for:

- 1-27 (1) the department;
1-28 (2) a juvenile probation department; or
1-29 (3) a juvenile facility registered with the
1-30 department.

1-31 (b) Subject to Subsection (d), the [The] department may
1-32 designate as permanently ineligible for certification under this
1-33 chapter an individual to whom this section applies if:

1-34 (1) while employed by, under contract with, or
1-35 volunteering for an entity described by Subsection (a-1), the
1-36 individual engaged [who has been terminated from employment with
1-37 the department for engaging] in conduct that:

1-38 (A) violates this chapter or a department rule;
1-39 or

1-40 (B) demonstrates the individual is not suitable
1-41 for certification under this chapter; or

1-42 (2) a panel under Subsection (c) determines the
1-43 individual's certification would threaten juveniles in the
1-44 juvenile justice system.

1-45 (c) The executive director may convene, in person or
1-46 telephonically, a panel of three board members to determine if the
1-47 [a former department employee's] continued eligibility of an
1-48 individual to whom this section applies to obtain a certification
1-49 under this chapter threatens juveniles in the juvenile justice
1-50 system. If the panel determines an individual's eligibility for
1-51 certification threatens juveniles in the juvenile justice system,
1-52 the department shall temporarily designate the individual as
1-53 ineligible for certification until an administrative hearing is
1-54 held under Subsection (d). The hearing must be held as soon as
1-55 possible following the temporary designation. The executive
1-56 director may convene a panel under this subsection only if the
1-57 danger posed by the person's continued eligibility for
1-58 certification is imminent. The panel may hold a telephonic meeting
1-59 only if immediate action is required and convening the panel at one
1-60 location is inconvenient for any member of the panel.

1-61 (d) A person is entitled to a hearing before the State

2-1 Office of Administrative Hearings if the department proposes to
2-2 designate a person as permanently ineligible for certification as
2-3 provided by Subsection (b).

2-4 SECTION 2. This Act takes effect September 1, 2025.

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