

SUBJECT: Executing arrest warrants for parolees on super-intensive supervision

COMMITTEE: Homeland Security and Public Safety — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — White, Bowers, Goodwin, Harless, Hefner, E. Morales, Patterson, Schaefer, Tinderholt
0 nays

WITNESSES: For — None
Against — None
On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Thomas Parkinson; Jason Clark, Texas Department of Criminal Justice)

BACKGROUND: Under Government Code sec. 508.317(d), the Texas Department of Criminal Justice (TDCJ) is required to have a program to provide super-intensive supervision to inmates released on parole or mandatory supervision and determined to require the highest level of supervision. Under Government Code sec. 508.253, an arrest warrant may be issued for a parolee accused of a parole violation or of committing a new offense.

Concerns have been raised that law enforcement authorities statewide do not have a directive to execute as soon as possible arrest warrants issued for parolees on the state's super-intensive supervision, which is used for those who are the highest risk.

DIGEST: HB 461 would require law enforcement agencies to execute, as soon as practicable, a warrant they receive for the return of a parolee in the super-intensive supervision program if the warrant was based on a violation of a condition of parole or mandatory supervision related to the individual's electronic monitoring.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2021, and would apply only to arrest warrants issued on or after that date.

