

SUBJECT: Executing warrants issued for parolees under super-intensive supervision

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

VOTE: 9 ayes — Nevárez, Paul, Burns, Calanni, Clardy, Goodwin, Israel, Lang, Tinderholt

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — None

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lela Smith, Texas Department of Criminal Justice)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 508.317 requires the Texas Department of Criminal Justice to establish a program to provide super-intensive supervision to inmates released on parole or mandatory supervision and determined by parole panels to require such supervision. The program must provide the highest level of supervision.

DIGEST: HB 785 would require a law enforcement agency to execute, as soon as practicable, an arrest warrant that was issued for the return of a releasee in the super-intensive supervision program (SISP) based on a violation of a condition of parole or mandatory supervision related to the electronic monitoring of the releasee.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019, and would apply only to an arrest warrant issued on or after that date.

SUPPORTERS SAY: HB 785 would improve public safety by ensuring that arrest warrants issued for SISP violators were prioritized and served as soon as possible. Offenders on SISP are subject to the highest level of supervision and required to be electronically monitored as they pose a risk to the public given the violent nature of their crimes, which include murder, sexual

assault, and kidnapping. Prioritizing arrest warrants for parolees on SISIP who violated electronic monitoring requirements would help ease victims' minds and protect the public. Further, by calling for greater urgency in serving these warrants, the bill could improve the effectiveness of SISIP by potentially deterring parolees from attempting to escape.

The bill would not place a burden on police departments. By requiring law enforcement agencies to execute these arrest warrants as soon as practicable, the bill would allow these agencies to balance the execution of these warrants with other cases.

OPPONENTS
SAY:

No concerns identified.