

SUBJECT: Making certain individuals eligible for early release from supervision

COMMITTEE: Corrections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 9 ayes — White, Allen, Bailes, Bowers, Dean, Morales, Neave, Sherman,
Stephenson

0 nays

WITNESSES: For — David Johnson, Grassroots Leadership; Douglas Smith, Texas Criminal Justice Coalition; Darwin Hamilton; (*Registered, but did not testify*: Lauren Johnson, ACLU of Texas; Pamela Brubaker, Austin Justice Coalition; Cate Graziani, Grassroots Leadership, Texas Advocates for Justice; Kathleen Mitchell, Just Liberty; Julia Egler, National Alliance on Mental Illness Texas; Michael Barba, Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Cheri Siegelin, Texas Correctional Employees-Huntsville; Emily Gerrick, Texas Fair Defense Project; Charlie Malouff, Texas Inmate Families Association; Amite Duncan, Texas Prisons Air Conditioning Advocates; Derek Cohen, Texas Public Policy Foundation; Mary Sue Molnar, Texas Voices; Carl F. Hunter II; Maria Person; Sandra Wolff)

Against — None

On — (*Registered, but did not testify*: Laurie Pherigo)

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 508.1555(a) requires parole officers annually to identify releasees under the officers' supervision who are eligible for early release. A person is eligible for early release if the person:

- had been under supervision for at least half of the time that remained on the person's sentence when the person was released from prison;
- did not commit any violation of the rules or conditions of release during the preceding two years;
- did not have the person's parole or release to mandatory supervision revoked; and

- it was determined that the person had made a good faith effort to comply with restitution orders imposed by a court and that allowing the person to serve the remainder of the sentence without supervision and reporting was in the best interest of society.

Interested parties have noted that time and resources spent supervising parolees who have already successfully served 10 years of their sentence could be better spent supervising individuals more likely to recidivate.

DIGEST:

HB 1753 would make a releasee who met all other statutory criteria eligible for early release from supervision if the person had been under supervision for 10 years or for at least half of the time that remained in the person's sentence, whichever period was shorter.

The bill would apply to a person on parole or mandatory supervision regardless of whether the person was released before, on, or after the bill's effective date.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2019.