

SUBJECT: Allowing certain people to file nondisclosure petitions

COMMITTEE: Corrections — favorable, without amendment

VOTE: 7 ayes — Herrero, Allen, V. Jones, R. Lopez, Murr, Swanson, Toth
0 nays
2 absent — Kacal, Sherman

WITNESSES: For — Devon Anderson, Justice Forward; Charlie Malouff, Texas C.U.R.E., Inc.; Jason Wang (*Registered, but did not testify*: Terra Tucker, Alliance for Safety and Justice; M Paige Williams, Dallas Criminal District Attorney John Creuzot; Lori Mellinger, Lioness Justice Impacted Women’s Alliance Statewide Leadership Council; Maggie Luna, Statewide Leadership Council; Luis Soberon, Texas 2036; Cole Meyer, Texas Appleseed; Justin Martinez, Texas Center for Justice and Equity; Allen Place, Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association; Aerin Abrams, Texas Fair Defense Project; Jennifer Allmon, The Texas Catholic Conference of Bishops; Cicely Kay, Travis County Commissioners Court; Renee Monroe, TxCURE Inc; Ashley Harris, United Ways of Texas)

Against — None

BACKGROUND: Government Code sec. 411.0727 allows people who complete veterans treatment court programs and meet certain conditions to file a petition for nondisclosure two years after the successful completion of the program.

DIGEST: HB 252 would replace references to veterans treatment court programs with references to specialty court programs in Government Code sec. 411.0727. The bill also would specify that courts would be required to issue a nondisclosure order regardless of whether the case against the person was dismissed following the successful completion of the applicable specialty court program.

The bill would take effect September 1, 2023.

**SUPPORTERS
SAY:**

HB 252 would reduce barriers to housing and employment for individuals who have successfully completed a specialty court program by allowing them to file a petition for nondisclosure. These petitions are already allowed for individuals who complete veterans treatment court programs, and the bill would allow the same for people who complete similarly-structured programs while retaining exceptions in current law. Specialty courts are rigorous programs that reduce recidivism and do not include violent crimes. HB 252 would help to give individuals who complete these programs the best chance at success and lower their likelihood of re-entering the criminal justice system.

**CRITICS
SAY:**

No concerns identified.

NOTES:

According the to Legislative Budget Board, the fiscal impact of the bill could not be determined because the number of additional nondisclosure petitions that would be filed with state courts is unknown.